

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Low Sunday
Divine Mercy Sunday



Sun. 27 Apr. 8:30 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm	Low Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday, I Class Chell family Pro Populo Tait Pilegaard Divine Mercy Chaplet, Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 28 Apr. 7:00 am 12:15 pm	St. Paul of the Cross, Confessor, III Class †Claire McQuillan Jeanette Mrowka
Tues. 29 Apr. 7:00 am 6:30 pm	St. Peter of Verona, Martyr, III Class Carol Hays Grandparents of Marina Lucina
Wed. 30 Apr. 7:00 am 12:15 pm	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin, III Class Linda Bardet Sean & Jessie Pope
Thurs. 1 May 7:00 am 6:30 pm	St. Joseph the Workman, I Class Monique Rance St. Monica Sodality
Fri. 2 May 7:00 am 12:15 pm 6:30 pm	St. Athanasius, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class Christine Pope Eric Reslock, Sr. Barbara Risse
Sat. 3 May 7:00 am No 9:00 am Mass Today. 10:30 Solemn Mass at Cathedral	Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class Maria Del Carmen
Sun. 4 May 8:30 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm	Second Sunday after Easter, II Class Michael Szumowski Pro Populo Ken Cools 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.

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.

...In Memoriam

†Charles Cantoni, †Manuel Nino, †Margaret Correa,
†Cindy Yumoto, †Fr. Vladimir Kozina, †Philip Rutschow

Important Upcoming Dates

May 3—May Procession & Solemn Mass at the Cathedral
May 10—First Holy Communion
May 13—Fatima Procession
May 29—Ascension of Our Lord
May 31—Ordinations in Omaha, Nebraska
June 14—Ordinations in Leesburg, Virginia
June 22-28—Camp Sacred Heart
July 13—17—Silent Retreat

Intimate Converse With God

Meditation, like meditative reading, is a means to attain to the heart of prayer which, according to St. Teresa of Jesus, is "nothing but friendly intercourse, and frequent solitary converse with Him who we know loves us." It makes no difference whether we attain this end by means of meditation, or reading, or even by the slow, pious recitation of a vocal prayer. All these ways are good; the best for each one, however, will be that which will lead him more quickly to the end, that is, to intimate converse with God. Once we reach the heart of prayer, we must learn how to persevere in it, in other words, to converse "in friendly intercourse with the Lord." Here, likewise, the manner will differ according to one's attraction and personal dispositions, which will often vary with the days and with circumstances. Sometimes, as soon as we are sufficiently convinced of God's love for us, we feel incited to express our gratitude to Him, desiring to return love for love, and we spontaneously begin an intimate conversation with the Lord. We express our gratitude, protesting that we want to be more generous in giving ourselves to Him; we beg His pardon for not having done so in the past; finally, we go on to make practical resolutions and to ask His help to keep them faithfully. Of course, this means an intimate colloquy, wholly personal and spontaneous, without preoccupation about form or order, and proceeding only from the superabundance of the heart. In this way, having interrupted the reading or the meditation which has aroused in us so many good thoughts, we "stop to have solitary converse with God," returning to the book or the reflection when we feel the need of seeking new reasons or of arousing new affections to maintain our colloquy with God. Here is a genuine colloquy, because not only does the soul speak, but God often answers—not audibly, of course, but by sending it graces of light and love through which the soul will have a better understanding of the divine ways, and will feel more eager to advance in them with generosity. It is well, therefore, not to make use of many words in the colloquy, but to stop often and listen interiorly in order to perceive the movements of grace, which are really God's answer.

We must not believe that in order to show God our love, it is always necessary to do so by means of words. On the contrary, we will often prefer to be silent in order to fix our gaze calmly on the Lord, to listen to Him, the interior Master, and to return Him love in silence. The manifestation of our love thus becomes less lively and impetuous, but it gains in depth what it loses in emotion and outward appearance. We express our love more tranquilly, but the movement of our will toward God is much firmer and more serious. Leaving aside reasonings and words we concentrate all in a loving, intuitive look on God, and this gaze, far more than reasonings and colloquies, allows us to penetrate the depths of the divine mysteries. Before reaching this point, we have read, meditated, analyzed; now, enjoying as it were the fruit of our investigation, we stop to contemplate God in silence and love. Our colloquy now becomes silent, contemplative, according to the traditional idea of "contemplation", that is, a simple look which penetrates truth. The more the soul contemplates God, and the more it falls in love with Him, the greater need it feels to concentrate its love in total generosity. The Lord in turn answers this seeking love of the soul. He lets Himself be found and felt by illuminating the soul with His light and grace.

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

The Life of Faustina Kowalska

Throughout human history, whenever a crisis of a spiritual, social or political nature threatened humankind, God in His mercy raised up visionaries to help the people survive it and even profit from it. In the twentieth century, to counteract atheism, materialism and humanism, God sent the Blessed Virgin Mary to three children in Fatima; and when Hitler was rising in power, Jesus Himself came to a Polish peasant girl, known in religion as Sister Faustina. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993 and canonized in 2000 and is now known and loved by millions as Saint Faustina, the great apostle of Divine Mercy.

She was born Helena Kowalska, in the obscure village of Glogowiec, near Lodz, Poland, in 1905, the third of ten children. Responding to the graces of God, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, Poland, at the age of twenty. Because she was uneducated, Faustina performed ordinary convent chores—those of a cook, baker, gardener and gatekeeper. In such a humble setting, she underwent extensive mystical experiences, unknown even to her closest companions. She accepted the invitation of Jesus to become His apostle and secretary, and to announce anew to mankind the Gospel message of God's mercy.

In 1934, obeying her spiritual director, her superiors and Jesus Himself, Sister Faustina began to record her experiences. Jesus told her: **Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy.... My daughter, be diligent in writing down every sentence I tell you concerning My Mercy, because this is meant for a great number of souls who will profit from it.**

Very few of the community members had any inkling of the extraordinary mystical experiences of Sister Faustina. She was hardly mentioned for two years following her death in 1938. Then, the devotion to The Divine Mercy began to spread in Vilnius, and Sister's name was being mentioned in connection with it.

News of this reached the sisters in the various houses of the congregation, and they began to ask questions. Therefore, in 1941, Mother Michael Moraczewska, who was still the Superior General of the congregation, felt this was the opportune time to officially acquaint her sisters with Sister Faustina's mission.

The sisters were filled with amazement. "She was so simple," said one, "she did not stand out among us; she was one of us but more virtuous, more recollected and more united to God. When after her death we learned what great things God accomplished in her and through her, we could not believe it!" But, of course, they were overjoyed that the patroness of their congregation, Our Lady of Mercy, obtained for them, and commissioned through Sister Faustina, the great gift of reminding the poor, sinful world of God's Divine Mercy.

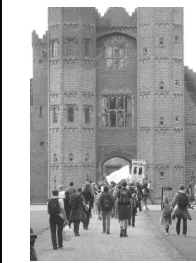
The Divine Mercy devotion spread almost spontaneously throughout Poland. Sister Faustina's message met the needs of the time in a special way. The sisters and girls recalled her love and concern for Poland. They related her predictions of war to the people who visited the grave and the chapel. The visitors, in turn, told others about them.

The convent in Lagiewniki became the chief center of the devotion to The Divine Mercy. The faithful came to the convent for holy cards, novenas, chaplets and litanies to the Divine Mercy. With the permission of the church authorities, special devotions to The Divine Mercy were held every third Sunday of the month, and the Sunday after Easter was celebrated as the Feast of Mercy.

During World War II, from 1940 on, the Devotion to The Divine Mercy became a shield of strength and hope for many, especially for those in the numerous concentration camps throughout Poland, and even beyond its borders. Eventually, it was carried by soldiers and refugees to all parts of the world. The novena, litany and chaplet were soon translated into many other languages. The most dynamic centers sprang up in France, the United States and Australia. The Pallotine and Marian Congregations were the chief promoters due to graces received by some of their members.

(Life of Faustina Kowalska by Sr. Sophia Michalenko, CMGT)

Confraternity of St. Peter
2014 Pilgrimage
English Martyrs



"Our Lady's Dowry" a glorious title that England was commonly known by in the Middle Ages. Visit the shrines and sites hallowed by the saints and martyrs of England's past and be a part of the closing events of the largest Traditional pilgrimage in the UK, to

witness the ancient Faith anew! Join Fr. James Fryar, FSSP, Chaplain of the Confraternity of St. Peter on August 23—September 1, 2014. For more information call Tish at 916-223-3112 or visit the website www.syversentouring.com/confraternity.

6th Annual Great Marian Procession

MEN OF ST. STEPHEN'S

Men are needed on May 3 to help in Our Lady's Procession.

We need men for security, carriers of the statue, and men with trucks to transport items such as kneelers. For more information or to volunteer contact Mike Solton:

916-832-2859 mjsolton@gmail.com

or Eric Geibel: 916-275-6206

eageibel@comcast.net

Camp Sacred Heart 2014

Camp Sacred Heart will be held June 22—28 this year. Registration is open to boys age 9—18, boys unknown to the chaplain must get a letter of recommendation from a priest.

For more information call the parish office or 916-223-3112. Forms may be obtained by e-mail stephenproto@yahoo.com You may also stop by the parish office or bookstore.

Sponsors needed for Camp

If you are able to help sponsor a boy for camp, there is a great need, especially for large families. Your help is very much appreciated!

"Christian Perfection & Love for the Cross of Christ"

Sunday, July 13—Thursday, July 17

In the fever and agitation of modern life, the need of meditation and spiritual repose impresses itself on Christian souls who desire to reflect on their eternal destiny, and direct their life in this world towards God. Here is your opportunity to do just that, don't put it off.

Fr. Chrysostom Baer, O. Praem. will preach our 2014 Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center. This silent retreat is open to all adult men and women. Each retreatant will have a private room/bath and all meals will be provided.

Daily Latin Mass, opportunity for Confession & Spiritual direction

More information is available at the parish office or bookstore.

916-455-5114 - stephenproto@yahoo.com

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Cesar Morales, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Patrick Corr, Mark Garcia Family