

**Sunday, April 13, 2014**  
**Palm Sunday**



<b>Sun. 13 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Palm Sunday, I Class</u></b>
8:30 am	Tait Pilegaard
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Mike & Catherine McGrath
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
<b>Mon. 14 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Monday of Holy Week, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	Dolores Cabral
12:15 pm	Edward Joseph Pierini III
<b>Tues. 15 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Tuesday of Holy Week, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	Tony
6:30 pm	Victor Gregory Cabral family
<b>Wed. 16 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Wednesday of Holy Week, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	†Jose Yumena
12:15 pm	†Victoria Mercado
<b>Thurs. 17 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Holy Thursday, I Class</u></b>
7:00 pm	Ryan Y. Lucina intentions
<b>Fri. 18 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Good Friday, I Class</u></b>
	<i>See Holy Week Schedule page 2</i>
<b>Sat. 19 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Holy Saturday, I Class</u></b>
8:30 pm	Special Intention
<b>Sun. 20 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Easter Sunday, I Class</u></b>
8:30 am	Special Intention
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Special Intention

**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**

April 18—Good Friday  
April 20—Easter Sunday  
April 22—Chesterton Society meeting  
May 3—May Procession & Solemn Mass at the Cathedral  
May 10—First Holy Communion  
June 22-28—Camp Sacred Heart  
July 13—17—Silent Retreat

**The Mystery of the Cross**

Good Friday is the day which invites us more than any other to “enter into the thicket of the trials and pains...of the Son of God,” and not only with the abstract consideration of the mind, but also with the practical disposition of the will to accept suffering voluntarily, in order to unite and assimilate ourselves to the Crucified. By suffering with Him, we shall understand His sufferings better and have a better comprehension of His love for us, for “the purest suffering brings with it the most intimate and the purest understanding;” and “no one feels more deeply in his heart the Passion of Christ than one who has suffered something similar.” With these dispositions let us accompany our Lord during His last day on earth.

The atrocious martyrdom, which within a few hours will torture His body, has not yet begun, and yet the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Olives marks one of the most sorrowful moments of His Passion, one which best reveals the bitter sufferings of His soul. His most sacred soul finds itself immersed in inexpressible anguish; it is extreme abandonment and desolation, without the slightest consolation, either from God or from man. The Savior feels the weight of the enormous burden of all the sins of mankind; He, the Innocent One, sees Himself covered with the most execrable crimes, and made, as it were, the enemy of God and the target of the infinite justice which will punish all our wickedness in Him. Of course, as God, Jesus never ceased, even in the most painful moments of His Passion, to be united to His Father; but as man, He felt Himself rejected by Him, “struck by God and afflicted.” This explains the utter anguish of His spirit, much more sorrowful than the dreadful physical sufferings which await Him; explains the cruel agony which made Him sweat blood; explains His complaint, “My soul is sorrowful even unto death.” Whereas before He had so ardently desired His Passion, now that His humanity finds itself facing the hard reality of the fact, deprived of the sensible help of the divinity, which seems not only to withdraw, but even more, to be angry with Him, Jesus groans: “My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from Me!” But this anguished cry of human nature is immediately lost in that of the perfect conformity of Christ's will to the Father's: “Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

The Agony in the Garden is followed by the treacherous kiss of Judas, the arrest, the night passed in the interrogations by the high priests and insults from the soldiers who strike Jesus, spit in His face and blindfold Him, while in the outer court, Peter is denying Him. At dawn they commence anew the questionings and accusations; the going back and forth from one tribunal to another begins—from Caiaphas to Pilate, from Pilate to Herod, and back again to Pilate—followed by the horrible scourging and the crowning with thorns. Finally, clothed as a mock king, the Son of God is presented to the mob which cries out: “Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas”; for Jesus, the Savior, the crowd can only shout: “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Loaded down with the wood for His torture, Jesus is led away to Calvary where He is crucified between two thieves. These terrible physical and mental sufferings reach their climax when the Savior, in agony on the Cross, utters the cry: “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” Thus Jesus, who willed to taste to the dregs all that is bitter for man in suffering and dying, teaches us to overcome the anxieties and anguish caused in us by sorrow and death, by acts of complete submission to the will of God and trustful abandonment into His hands.

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

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Holy Thursday** – April 17th  
Tenebrae – 8:00 am  
Confessions – 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm  
Solemn High Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:00 pm  
*(Adoration, in the gym, after the Mass, until midnight)*  
**Good Friday** – April 18th  
Tenebrae – 8:00 am  
Stations of the Cross, 2:00 pm  
Confessions – 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm  
Solemn Liturgy – 3:00 pm  
**Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil** – April 19th  
Tenebrae – 8:00 am  
Confessions – 7:30 pm – 8:15 pm  
Easter Vigil – 8:30 pm  
**Easter Sunday** – April 20th  
8:30 am Low Mass  
10:30 am High Mass  
1:00 pm Low Mass  
(No Vespers)

**Do You Have Calla Lilies in Your Yard?**

Would you like to share some of your lilies for our altar for Easter? Please call the office if you can help us out. We need many to make it beautiful! 916-455-5114

**Altar of Repose**

Many flowers are also needed for our Altar of Repose. Please bring cut flowers, potted flowers (low scent) and flowers of your choice in order to make our **Altar of Repose** really beautiful for Our Lord. Flowers may be brought to the gym during Holy Week—we need them for Holy Thursday evening. Let's try to have every family participate in this tradition.

**Some Call Him Lord**

In the last, painful moments of Jesus' life on this earth, there were few to witness his dying. In the darkness crouched the faithful women who had attended and loved him. Perhaps one or two of his disciples hidden in the dark. A squadron of Roman soldiers. And, of course, and closest to him in his dying hours, hung two others on their cross of pain. They were thieves, those who stole from people, and ironically flanking the one who was giving his very life for people.

Then while the people and one of the thieves mocked Jesus—it continued to the very end—the other thief pleaded, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He had, spiritually, come to the altar; he affirmed his need for Jesus; he begged for eternal life through the precise event that was being enacted on the cross not a dozen feet away. The sacrificial lamb was being slain.

The truly stunning words were from Jesus, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.” Jesus always and only told the truth. *Today* you will be with me in paradise. With the offering of the lamb death itself is crushed. This deed enabled Paul to say, in echoing the words of the prophets Isaiah and Hosea: “Death has been swallowed up in victory. / Where, O death is your victory? / Where, O death, is your sting?”

Often, however, I find myself back at the altar. Like the thief, I whisper in the darkness, “Jesus, remember me.” I need the reassurance that he promised me, “This day you will be with me in paradise.” That is my altar now, enacted during the darkness and solitary suffering of my Savior. I come with no offering other than my need.

*(Woman, Why Are You Weeping? By John Timmerman)*

**Reminder— Chesterton Society meeting:**  
**April 22th at 7:30pm** (4th Tues. because of Holy Week)

We will be **reading :**

**Orthodoxy** - "The Romance of Orthodoxy" &

**Fr. Brown** - "The God of the Gongs"

All are welcome!

**The Spiritual Life of Cardinal Merry del Val**

In the early part of the 21st century, because of the incessant and often strident media attention to the doings and mis-doings of many highly placed Churchmen, it is good to reflect upon how much good can be accomplished for the greater glory of God and the advancement of religion by even one man of deep holiness who has been placed in a position of great authority and responsibility in the Church.

Such a man was Cardinal Merry del Val. He is best known as the architect and executor of St. Pius X's war against Modernism, for which great service to God he acquired numerous enemies in his lifetime, and for which we can be sure that he gained many friends in Heaven. But his life was not one of merely temporal greatness. He was a profoundly humble and virtuous man as well.

Saint Pius X had as his Secretary of State a man who was eminently worth of his holy pontificate—Cardinal Merry Del Val. In 1931, a year after the death of this illustrious Cardinal, the famous French scholar Rene Bazin made the following observation: “Judgment was passed in many different ways on Cardinal Merry del Val while he was living. But now that he is dead people are getting to know him better, for with death has come the unveiling of the well-guarded secret of his extraordinary spiritual life.”

*(The Spiritual Life of Cardinal Merry del Val by Rev. Jerome Dal-Gal)*

**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](mailto: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](mailto:stephenproto@yahoo.com)

**Applying to College?**

Check out the Great Books Program at Thomas Aquinas College. Representatives from the Admissions Office of Thomas Aquinas College will be at Presentation Parish in Carmichael on Friday, April 25 at 7pm to answer all of your questions regarding financial aid, what qualifications the college is looking for, and what you can expect from the education. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

**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, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales, Mark Garcia Family, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Lorraine Peterson, Sue McGrath, John Patrick Corr