

Sunday, May 25, 2014
Fifth Sunday After Easter



Sun. 25 May	Fifth Sunday after Easter, II Class
8:30 am	†Geraldine Foy
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Celestin & Fredericksen Children
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 26 May	St. Philip Neri, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Cindy & Steve Patterson
12:15 pm	Jennifer Culkin & Company
Tues. 27 May	St. Bede the Venerable, Confessor & Doctor, III Class
7:00 am	Dr. & Mrs. George S. Pope & Family
6:30 pm	†Maria Thin
Wed. 28 May	Vigil of the Ascension, II Class
7:00 am	John Winston
12:15 pm	McGrath Family
Thurs. 29 May	Ascension of the Lord, I Class
7:00 am	Nick Solari
7:00 pm	†Charles Cantoni
Fri. 30 May	St. Felix I, Pope & Martyr, IV Class
7:00 am	Alfred Nicolini
12:15 pm	Marie Kivoka
6:30 pm	†Vincent Doanh
Sat. 31 May	Queenhip of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class
7:00 am	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Gullott & Family
9:00 am	David & Meg Pince
Sun. 1 June	Sunday after Ascension, II Class
8:30 am	†Alice Marie Becker
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Gillian & Geanna
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.

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 27—Rogation Day Procession & Mass 12 noon
 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

Mary's Faith

Using St. Elizabeth's words, the Church says in praise of Mary: "Blessed art thou that hast believed, because those things shall be accomplished that were spoken to thee by the Lord." Great things indeed were to be accomplished in Mary; and she had the great merit of believing in them. On the word of God as announced by the Angel, she believed that she would become a mother without losing her virginity; she, who was so humble, believed that she would be truly the Mother of God, and that the fruit of her womb would really be the Son of the Most High. She adhered with entire faith to all that had been revealed to her, accepting, without the least hesitation, a plan that would upset the whole natural order of things: a virgin mother; a creature, Mother of the Creator. She believed when the Angel spoke to her; she continued to believe even when the Angel left her alone and she found herself in the condition of an ordinary woman who knows that she is about to become a mother. "The Virgin," St. Bernard says, "so little in her own eyes, was magnanimous in her faith in God's promise! She, who considered herself nothing but a poor handmaid, never had the least doubt concerning her vocation to this incomprehensible mystery, to this marvelous change, to this inscrutable sacrament; she firmly believed that she would become the true Mother of the God-Man."

The Blessed Virgin teaches us to believe in our vocation to sanctity, to divine intimacy. We did believe in it when God revealed it to us in the brightness of interior light, and the words of His minister confirmed it; but we should also believe in it when we find ourselves alone, in darkness, amid difficulties that tend to disturb and discourage us. God is faithful, and He does not do things by halves: He will finish His work in us, provided we have complete confidence in Him.

It would be very far from the truth to think that the divine mysteries were so revealed to Mary, and the divinity of Jesus was so evident to her that she had no need of faith. Excepting the Annunciation and the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we do not find any extraordinary manifestations of the supernatural in her life. Mary lived by pure faith, trusting in God's word even as we must. The divine mysteries which took place in her and around her remained habitually hidden under the veil of faith, assuming an outward appearance common to the various circumstances of ordinary daily life. Hence, they were often concealed under obscure, disconcerting aspects such as, the extreme poverty in which Jesus was born, the necessity of fleeing into exile in order to save Him, the King of heaven, from the wrath of an earthly king, the toil undergone to procure for Him the strict necessities, and the lack of even these, perhaps. Yet Mary never doubted that this weak, helpless Child, who needed her maternal care and protection just like any other child, was the Son of God. She always believed, even when she did not understand. Witness for example, the unexpected disappearance of the twelve-year-old Boy who had remained in the Temple without His parents' knowledge. St. Luke relates that when Jesus explained His action, giving as a reason that He was carrying out the mission entrusted to Him by His heavenly Father, Mary and Joseph "did not understand his words."

Sometimes in our spiritual life, we come to a halt because we insist on understanding and searching into God's plans for our soul. A faithful soul, on the other hand, does not linger to inquire about God's actions; even though not fully understanding them, it believes, following blindly, the manifestations of the divine will. (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Rogation Day

The Rogation Day Procession and Mass will be held at St. Stephen's this year. It will take place this Tuesday, May 27, beginning at 12 noon. Bring a picnic, if you like, to enjoy after Mass.

The Martyrs the Consolation of the Heart of God

What a wonderful thought it is, dear brethren in Jesus Christ: how consoling and inspiring, that the great God who has all things and can do all things, whose bliss from all eternity has known no limits and no imperfections, should nevertheless desire our love, should yearn after it with unspeakable longing, should seek it with unwearied patience, and, having obtained it, should rejoice over it as a treasure of great price! "My son, give Me thy heart," He cries to each one of us, and to those who respond to the call, to them He reveals all the hidden secrets of His heart, on them He pours out the riches of His love, in them He finds His consolation and His joy.

Our divine Lord asks for faithful friends, for friends who will be true till death, who will not shrink from trials and sufferings for His sake, who will embrace the cross with joy because it unites them more closely to Him, who will welcome persecution, torture—yes, and death itself—in order to prove more surely the reality and constancy of their devotion.

Our Lord does not seek for mere fair weather friends. It is very easy to think we love Him when all things are bright around us, easy to have hot feelings in prayer, to delight in beautiful services, music and ceremonial, easy to fancy we are very devout, as long as there is nothing serious to give up for God's love, no fierce struggles with the world and the devil, no wearing conflict with the flesh. But it is temptation, it is sacrifice which proves and tests our love, it is the day of darkness and gloom which reveals the true nature of our devotion, and happy indeed are they who in hour of trial are found faithful, even unto death, for they are those blessed ones who console the heart of God.....

It is true that things are very easy for us now. We have no martyrdom to fear, no tortures to undergo for the love of Christ. The more shame then to us if we do not give Him our hearts! We have all some work to do for Him, all something to bear for His love. It may be that our faith prevents our getting on in this world as otherwise we might; it may well be that from time to time at least we may have to bear scorn and ridicule, coldness and dislike for that same holy Faith; to converts especially is it often granted, even in these days of toleration and indifference, to suffer somewhat—loss of friends, loss of goods and money, perhaps—for the love of Christ.

Oh, how happy are those who are thus permitted to taste something of the martyrs' chalice; how earnestly we ought to thank God if we are thus permitted to show Him that our love is real, that it will stand the test of suffering, and ring true in the midst of persecution.

Yes, let us be true to Him in spite of the sneers of an indifferent world; let us cling to His sacred feet, and let no temptation drive us from them; let us by our fidelity, even unto death, console that Sacred Heart which is too often wounded in the house of its friends. Then may we hope to meet the blessed martyrs in paradise, and to be numbered among those happy ones in whom our God shall ever find His consolation.

(taken from "Witnesses To the Holy Mass and Other Sermons" by Dom Bede Camm, O.S.B.)

~ 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 visitors in this matter be left to the priests or their delegates.

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.

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Rosa Mystica & Little Flowers

Registration is now open for Rosa Mystica (ages 9-14) & Little Flowers (ages 5-8). Forms are available at the Parish Office, bookstore, or by e-mail. The **deadline** for registration is August 1st and **space is limited**. Registration forms are also available for the Sodality of Our Lady, (ages 14 & up)

Prayer of Parents for Vocations

(based on a prayer recited by the parents of Lu Monferrato, Italy)

O God, grant that at least one of our sons may become a priest, and one of our daughters a religious sister. We ourselves want to live as good Christians, and to guide our children always to do what is right, so that we may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give You a holy priest or holy religious sister! Amen.

Another Prayer for Vocations

O God, grant that many young men and women of St. Stephen's parish respond to Your call to follow You as priests and religious. We ourselves want to live as good Christians, always trying to give good example to our young people, so that we may receive the grace, O God, to see many of them become holy priests and religious sisters. Amen.

"Christian Perfection & Love for the Cross of Christ"

Sunday, July 13—Thursday, July 17

Space is still available—please sign up soon in order to secure a place.

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, Kaehler Family, 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