

Sunday, June 1, 2014
Sunday After Ascension



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
Mon. 2 June	SS. Marcellinus, Peter, & Erasmus, Martyrs, IV Class
7:00 am	†Ray Smith
12:15 pm	Renee Burns
Tues. 3 June	Feria After Ascension, IV Class
7:00 am	M/M James Early & Family
6:30 pm	Lynn Buenrostro
Wed. 4 June	St. Francis Caracciolo, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	†Charles Cantoni
12:15 pm	Marilyn Bennett & †Paul
Thurs. 5 June	St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr, III Class
7:00 am	†Jonan Sneeringer
6:30 pm	St. Monica Sodality
Fri. 6 June	St. Norbert, Bishop & Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	M/M Paul Sartoris & Family
12:15 pm	McGrath Family
6:30 pm	Gary Aranas
Sat. 7 June	Vigil of Pentecost, I Class
7:00 am	M/M George Foy & Family
9:00 am	Vaccaneza
Sun. 8 June	Pentecost Sunday, I Class
8:30 am	Donald Foy & Family
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Fr. O'Neill
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

June 3—Tuesday 6:30 pm - "First Mass" Fr. Robert Dow, FSSP
 June 8—Sunday 10:30 am - "First Mass" Fr. Daniel Nolan, FSSP
 June 14—Ordinations in Leesburg, Virginia
 June 22-28—Camp Sacred Heart
 June 27—Sacred Heart of Jesus
 June 29—Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul
 July 13—17—Silent Retreat

The Spirit of Christ

In Sacred Scripture, the Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of Christ," an expression that is pregnant with meaning. Christ is the Incarnate Word. Although He became Man, He remains the Word, the Son of God. From Him, as from the Father, the Holy Spirit proceeds; therefore, the Holy Spirit is properly termed the Spirit of Christ, because the Person of Christ is none other than that of the Word. When we speak of Christ, however, we do not speak of Him as God only, but also, and especially, as Man, that is, as the *Incarnate* Word. In this sense too, it can be said that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. We know, in fact, that the divine Paraclete, with the Father and the Son, dwells in every soul that is in the state of grace, and not only does He dwell there, but He delights to abide there. The higher the degree of grace He finds in a soul, the greater is His delight, for wherever grace is more abundant, there is a more intense and luminous reflection of God's nature and goodness. This is why the Holy Spirit took such great complacency in the soul of the Blessed Virgin, who, although she was full of grace, continually grew from plenitude to plenitude. Yet the grace possessed by Mary was but a pale reflection of the grace which filled the soul of Jesus, grace which theologians call "infinite."

If, then, Jesus possessed grace in an infinite manner, it can be said that the Holy Spirit took complacency in the soul of Christ in an infinite manner and dwelt there as in His temple of predilection. This idea is expressed in the Encyclical *Mystici Corporis*, when it says that the divine Paraclete "finds His delight in dwelling in the soul of the Redeemer as in His favorite temple." And if we can say that the Holy Spirit is *ours* because He dwells in our souls sanctified by grace, with infinitely greater reason can we say that He is "Christ's," whose sacred soul possesses grace in an immeasurable degree.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and dwells in Him as in His chosen temple. The Holy Spirit is in the soul of Christ to bear it continually to God, to direct it in the accomplishment of its redemptive mission and to the fulfillment of the will of the heavenly Father. We see this in the Gospel where St. Luke, after describing Jesus' baptism, when the Holy Spirit "descended in a bodily shape, as a dove, upon Him," adds: "Jesus, being full of the Holy Ghost, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the desert." This is an explicit statement of the immeasurable plenitude with which the Holy Spirit dwelt in the soul of Jesus; without doubt, this plenitude existed from the first moment of the Savior's life, but God wished to make it sensibly manifest at the time of His baptism. It is also a striking example of the unceasing operation of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' soul, inspiring all His actions and guiding Him to the accomplishment of His redemptive mission. According to St. Paul: "By the Holy Ghost, [Christ] offered Himself unspotted unto God." If we wish a more profound understanding of this mysterious action of the divine Paraclete in the sacred soul of Jesus, it will suffice to think of what He accomplishes in a soul who has reached the transformation of love. St. John of the Cross teaches that, in this very exalted state, the Holy Spirit invades the soul, henceforth totally docile to His motions; He directs it and moves it in all its acts, impelling it unceasingly toward God by a perfect adherence to His divine will. The divine Spirit encountered the soul of Jesus; He invaded it, directed it, guided it in the accomplishment of its mission and brought it to God with unparalleled transports. (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

The Holy Spirit: God's Gift to Us

The Holy Spirit lives in us not only to possess us, but also to be possessed by us, to be ours. For love must possess, as well as be possessed. He is the Gift of God—*Altissimi Donum Dei*. Now, the gift that belonged to the giver becomes the possession of the one who receives it. The Gift of God is ours through the stupendous prodigy of love.

Almost every time that Sacred Scripture speaks of the mission of the Holy Spirit in our souls, we find the word *give*. "I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate." "In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." "For the Spirit had not yet been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified." "...giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us."

The words "give" and "gift" have a meaning proper to the Holy Spirit. The Father gave us His Son because He loves us: "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son." "Through Him, He has granted us the very great and precious promises." It is characteristic of love to give gifts, but the first gift, the gift par excellence, is love itself. The Holy Spirit is the Love of God; therefore, He is the Gift of God. God gave His Son to us through love; consequently, that inexpressible gift is through the first Gift, through the Gift of all gifts.

Now the giving on the part of God corresponds to possession on our part. We have what God has given us. The Holy Spirit is then something of our own, and we can call Him, according to St. Thomas, "the spirit of man, or a gift bestowed on man."

Have we thought about what it means to possess the Gift of God in our souls? Have we thought about the divine significance of that rigorously exact phrase: "The Holy Spirit is ours?" Possession is proper to love. In its first stage it is a desire of possession; perfect love is the joy of possession, and love that is consummated is the abyss of possession.

In earthly love how imperfect, how ephemeral, how inconstant our possession is! In divine love, however, the one who is loved is necessarily possessed and with a more profound intimacy than we know, and so unchangingly—on God's part always and on ours when love attains its perfection—that St. Paul exclaims: "I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 (taken from "The Sanctifier" by Archbishop Luis Martinez)

**Rachel's Vineyard
 Healing After Abortion Retreat**

Is someone you know suffering after an abortion, perhaps years after the choice? Please consider the **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat** weekend, July 11-13, 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. This retreat is 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.

~ 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.

Should I go on Retreat?

- * Is my spiritual life exactly where I would like it to be?
- * Am I making progress in the spiritual life?

"Christian Perfection & Love for the Cross of Christ"

Sunday, July 13—Thursday, July 17
 Space is still available for our annual silent retreat. So far 26 people have signed up. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to enrich your spiritual life.

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

**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)

"First Mass": Fr. Robert Dow, FSSP

Fr. Robert Dow—a St. Stephen parishioner before he left for the seminary—will be celebrating a "First Mass" (low Mass) at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 3rd. First blessings will be given after Mass.

"First Mass": Fr. Daniel Nolan, FSSP

Fr. Dan Nolan—who spent a month here as a deacon last August—will be offering a "First Mass" on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th at 10:30 am. First blessings will be given after Mass.

Results of Special Collections

Home Mission—\$1,113.20

FSSP Colombia Mission—\$8,940.00

**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 www.syversentouring.com/confraternity.

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