

Sunday, July 6, 2014
4th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 6 July	4th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Fr. Peter Carota
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Rose Wedinsky
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 7 July	SS. Cyril & Methodius, Bishops & Confessors, III Class
7:00 am	Joseph Lori
12:15 pm	Elizabeth Cusmano
Tues. 8 July	St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Queen & Widow, III Class
7:00 am	†Carl Frederick Becker
6:30 pm	Thomas Brennan
Wed. 9 July	Feria, IV Class
7:00 am	Roxanne Johnson & Family
12:15 pm	Louise Szabo
Thurs. 10 July	Seven Holy Brothers, Martyrs, and SS. Rufina & Secunda, Virgin & Martyrs, III Class
7:00 am	†Eleanor Matthews
6:30 pm	Geraldine Piccolo & Family
Fri. 11 July	St. Pius I, Pope & Martyr, IV Class
7:00 am	†Jonan Sneeringer
12:15 am	Tish Gallagher
6:30 pm	Efren Coprada
Sat. 12 July	St. John Gualbert, Abbot, III Class
7:00 am	Carol A. Christ & Family
9:00 am	Elizabeth McDonnough
Sun. 13 July	5th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Sam Wean
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Sergio Reali
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

July 13—17—Silent Retreat
 August 3—Patronal Feast—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 August 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 August 23—English Martyrs Pilgrimage
 September 6—Girls' Club resumes
 October 18—26th Anniversary of the FSSP
 October 31—All Saints Eve Party

In The Presence of the Trinity

What Jesus has revealed to us, and what the Church, relying on His word, teaches us about the Trinity, is sufficient to prove the existence of this mystery, but it does not suffice to enable us to understand it. Furthermore, it is the mystery of our faith which is least accessible to human reason, making us realize more than ever the infinite disproportion between our intelligence and the divine mysteries, giving us a vivid awareness of the vast distance which separates us, mere creatures that we are, from God, the Supreme Being, the Most High. All this is good because it makes us take, with regard to God, an attitude truly proper to creatures: an attitude of humility, of humble acknowledgement of our insufficiency, of respectful self-abasement, of reverent adoration. Thus, when we put ourselves in the presence of the great mystery of the Trinity, we feel the need to repeat humbly, "*Nihil sumus, nihil possumus, nihil valemus.*" We are nothing, we can do nothing, we are worth nothing (St. John Eudes), while at the same time praising the inaccessible greatness of our God: "*Sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth!*" Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts! Thou only art holy, Thou only art almighty, Thou only art worthy, Thou alone art He who is.

Unaided reason is blinded by the greatness of the mystery, but this same reason enlightened by faith is not misled. It admits its limitations, and submitting itself to divine revelation, it believes. This act of faith is all the more meritorious and supernatural, the less it leans on human reasoning. It gives greater honor to God the more blind its adherence to His word. St. Teresa of Jesus says, "The less of a natural foundation these truths had, the more firmly I held them and the greater was the devotion they inspired in me. I saw I had every reason for praising God." This is the faith of a humble soul in the presence of the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity.

Consideration of the mystery of the Trinity inspires us not only with an attitude of humble reverence and blind faith, but also with one of deep filial love. "This is the characteristic of friendship," says St. Thomas, "that the friend confides his secrets to another." This is also characteristic of the love of God for us, because by revealing to us the mystery of the Trinity, He has unveiled to us the secret of His intimate life, toward which we had no right to turn our gaze. If we had no other proofs of the love of friendship which God has for us, the revelation of this mystery would be more than enough to convince us of it. He has confided to us the secrets of His Heart; He has opened to us the mystery of His personal life and has admitted us into intimacy with Himself. All this justly strengthens our conviction of the *exceeding* charity with which God has loved us, especially since, not being satisfied to reveal this mystery, the three Persons of the glorious Trinity willed to give Themselves to us as well! The Father gave Himself to us by bringing us into existence and by sacrificing His only-begotten Son for our salvation; the Son gave Himself to us by becoming Incarnate, by dying for us on the Cross and by making Himself our Food; the Holy Spirit gave Himself to us by coming to dwell in our souls, by infusing grace and charity in us. If the three divine Persons have offered Themselves to us to this degree, it is to elevate us to the status of sons and to bring us, as sons, into Their divine family.

Yes, in the presence of the Trinity, we always remain tiny creatures, infinitely distant from the divine Majesty; yet, the Trinity has stooped to us and drawn us, loving us with an eternal love.

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

Glories of the Precious Blood

It is an indisputable article of Faith, that in order to be cleansed from sin, original or actual, we need the application of the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, in which alone we are justified and freed from the anger of God. "Almost all things, according to the law, are cleansed with blood: and without shedding of blood there is no remission." (Heb. 9:22). "Christ died for us; much more therefore, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from wrath through him." (Rom. 5:9).

Although the merits of the Precious Blood have been applied to our souls in the holy sacrament of Baptism, by which we were washed from the stain of original sin in the lustral water which derives its efficacy solely from the Blood of Christ, still our inordinate concupiscences and evil inclinations remain for us. It is necessary, therefore, for us to have recourse to the laver of Christ's Precious Blood again and again, to be cleansed from our actual sins and our daily faults, and to be healed more and more from the effects of sin and from dangerous attachments and baneful tendencies. Hence St. Fulgentius, one of the Fathers of the Church, says that the application of the Precious Blood to every Christian is indispensable, from the time of his birth to old age—that is, until death.

Another undeniable truth that shows forth the necessity of applying the Precious Blood to our souls, is the doctrine that nothing defiled can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Since the fall of Adam, man is a vessel of defilement and must be washed in the Blood of the Lamb before the gates of Heaven will be opened to him. No one will become a citizen of the abode of the elect unless he be marked by the Blood of Christ. "Blessed are they that wash their robes in the blood of the lamb; that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city." (Apoc. 22:14).

For this reason Our Lord has left us in His Church many means by which His Precious Blood is applied to our souls. The Holy Eucharist is, as a sacrifice and as a sacrament, the heart of the activity of the Precious Blood, but the other sacraments are the vessels, the veins through which this life-giving stream of grace is conducted from the Heart of Jesus into the souls of men for their sanctification. The sacraments are a continuation of the earthly life of our Divine High-priest. They are wonderful inventions and dispensations of His divine love and mercy, disclosing the supernatural in natural forms, as they are visible signs of the invisible graces of the Precious Blood.

What would happen to us without the constant activity of the Precious Blood in the Church? The tyranny of sin would become intolerable; there would be no striving after "the things that are above," and we should relapse into the worst forms of heathenism. But the Precious Blood exercises a constant warfare against evil and raises a mighty bulwark against the inroads of sin. It is to us a source of light and warmth and strength in our daily trials and combats. In death, when all other lights go out, the Precious Blood offers to the anxious soul its only light and hope and courage.

The Blood of Christ shed and renewed daily for sins! Do we realize the enormous iniquity of sin, with which men sport and jest and which many drink like water? O terrible necessity of the Blood of Jesus, which alone is efficacious in wiping out sin! Sin frustrates the designs of God and destroys as much as it can, the merits of our Redeemer's Blood. The sinner sees the Blood of his Saviour flowing from His Sacred Wounds and yet by his sins he helps to widen and deepen those wounds. But what could inspire the penitent sinner with more confidence in God than a deep devotion to the Precious Blood? Who could lose faith in Jesus when he sees Him bleeding for us? "My daughter," writes St. Jane Frances de Chantal, "often considers how it is said in the Gospel that Jesus Christ loved us, and washed us in His Blood, and observe that He did not wait to love us until we were washed from our impurities; but He loved us when we were vile and impure creatures, and then washed us."

(*Glories of the Precious Blood* by Rev. Max F. Walz, CPPS)

"Christian Perfection & Love for the Cross of Christ"

Sunday, July 13—Thursday, July 17

Is your SPIRITUAL LIFE exactly where you want it to be??

What are you waiting for.....

Space is still available for our annual silent retreat. So far 30 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

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.

~ 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.

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, Norman Sayles