

Sunday, June 29, 2014
SS. Peter & Paul



Sun. 29 June **SS. Peter & Paul, Apostles, I Class**
 8:30 am Rose Wedinsky
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Fr. Kozina

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 30 June **Commemoration of St. Paul, Apostle, III Class**
 7:00 am †Alice Marie Becker
 12:15 pm Amy Rutschow

Tues. 1 July **The Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I Class**
 7:00 am †Christina Valecia
 7:00 pm Juliann McDonough

Wed. 2 July **Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class**
 7:00 am †Mrs. Ellie Matthews
 12:15 pm Ricky Moitoso

Thurs. 3 July **St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr, III Class**
 7:00 am Sam Roundtree
 6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 4 July **Commemoration of All Holy Popes, IV Class**
 7:00 am Drs. K. & J. Adubofour & Family
 9:00 am Dominic Cammarota
 12:15 pm Brady Lendewig

Sat. 5 July **St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Confessor, III Class**
 7:00 am †Paul Bennett
 9:00 am Jeffrey Morse

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

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 1—Most Precious Blood of our Lord: 7:00 pm High Mass
 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

Feast of SS. Peter and Paul

The Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, Princes of the Church, awakens in our souls a greater love for the Church and for our Holy Father the Pope. The liturgy today gives the place of honor to St. Peter, the head of the Apostles; tomorrow it will speak to us of St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. Thus it presents to us those who have established the Church, not only by their labors, but even by their blood. The Gospel recalls the scene at Caesarea, where Jesus, for the first time, proclaimed Peter as the foundation stone of the Church: "I say that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church," words which have had a magnificent repercussion down through the centuries, and which, even today, bear witness to the primacy of Peter and his successors over the whole of Christianity—not over a number of small churches, but over one great, unique Church, the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Church. One only Church, whose sole Founder and Head is Christ, who chose Peter to represent Him. "Where Peter is, there is the Church." This means that wherever the Pope, Peter's successor, is, there the Church is. Rightly, then, should we consider the Feast of St. Peter as the Feast of the Church, the Feast of our Holy Father the Pope, and one which should awaken in every Christian soul a profound sense of belonging to the Church and of devotion to the Sovereign Pontiff. At the moment of her death, St. Teresa of Jesus repeated: "I am a daughter of the Church!" After having labored so much for God and souls, this was the only title that made her sure of the divine mercy. To be a child of the Church! This is our title to salvation, this is our glory, after that of being a child of God. Or rather, not *after*, but *together with*, for, as the Fathers of the Church say, "He cannot have God for Father who does not have the Church for Mother." He is not a true Catholic who does not feel the joy of being a child of the Church, whose heart does not vibrate for the Church and for the Vicar of Christ upon earth, who is not ready to renounce his own personal views in order to "*sentire cum Ecclesia*," to think with the Church, always and in all things.

Today's Communion antiphon repeats again the memorable words by which Jesus constituted Peter the foundation stone of the Church. "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church." It is a renewed expression of honor to the Prince of the Apostles, but it is also a summons to us. Every Christian, in fact, ought to be a firm, solid rock which Jesus can use to sustain His Church. Evidently, the living rock, the cornerstone par excellence is Christ, and, next to Himself, He has placed His Vicar; next come all the faithful, from the Bishops down to the last person to be baptized. We are all, as St. Peter says in his first Epistle, "living stones built up, a spiritual house, a holy priesthood."

Whoever you may be—priest or lay person, religious or father of a family, simple Christian or humble nun, you also are called to support the Church, just as in a building, not only the big blocks of granite, but also the smallest bricks help to solidify the whole edifice. This profound apostolic sense must not be wanting in any soul; it must make us conscious of our degree of responsibility for the growth of the Church. We must fulfill our part, first of all, by our obedience and submission to the directives of the Hierarchy; but this is not enough. If we are true children of the Church, we cannot be indifferent to her needs, her interests, and her sufferings. And you, her child, can you remain indifferent? Suffer with your Mother; pray, work, and use your strength to serve and defend her. Lay aside your own little personal interests and consecrate yourself to the great interests of the Church.

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

How to Offer the Precious Blood to the Eternal Father

One of the best means of participating in the graces and blessings of the Precious Blood is to offer it to the Eternal Father. "An offering," says Father Faber, is more than a prayer," In prayer, we are the recipients, but when we make an offering, God deigns to accept something from us. St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi explained on one occasion when in ecstasy: "Every time a creature offers up this Blood by which he was redeemed, he offers a gift of infinite worth, which can be equaled by no other!" God revealed to this sainted Carmelite nun the practice of making this offering when He complained to her that so little effort is made in this world to disarm His Divine justice against sinners. Acting upon this admonition, she daily offered the Precious Blood fifty times for the living and the dead. She did this with so much fervor that God showed her on different occasions the numerous souls whose conversion she had brought about in this manner and all the Poor Souls she had delivered from Purgatory. "This devotion," says Longius, "is pleasing to God, because He is thereby honored by the best and the most sublime gifts."

Another time when St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi was in ecstasy, she saw all the holy patrons of the city of Florence, accompanied by innumerable other Saints, before the throne of God, interceding for sinners, but their petitions remained unanswered. Then, the Guardian Angels of these poor sinners approached, but their prayers were not heard either. Next came the multitudes of the Blessed, and they made intercession for these guilty souls. While imploring God's mercy they were intent at the same time to offer to the Eternal Father the **Precious Blood**, and on account of the merits of this Precious Blood, *their* petition was granted.

Should not these examples incite us to offer to God the Father the Precious Blood of Jesus frequently during the day?

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus, in satisfaction for my sins, and for the needs of Holy Church.

By this short, efficacious prayer, many graces are won. Many could make this offering whenever they hear the clock strike. And it is especially efficacious when made during Mass. (*"Devotion to the Precious Blood"* published by Tan Books)

St. Peter

Peter, formerly called Simon, from Bethsaida in Galilee, was a son of Jonas and a brother of Andrew by whom he was brought to Christ. After the great draught of fishes, when our Lord said to him and Andrew: Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men, Peter followed the Savior constantly, from whom he received the most tender proofs of love. Peter was present when Christ appeared in His glory on Mount Thabor, when He raised the daughter of Jairus to life, and when He sweat blood in the agony on Mount Olivet. Peter was also present at the miraculous draught of fishes, which was a figure of the multitudes which he was to bring, by means of the holy Gospel, to the kingdom of God, for Christ called him a fisher of men, and afterwards, because Peter recognized and professed Him to be the Son of the living God, Christ named him Peter, made him the head of the apostles and of the entire Church, made him His vicar and visible representative upon earth, promising to build His Church upon him as upon a rock, gave him the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and commanded him to feed His lambs and His sheep. Peter loved our Lord above all things; because of his love he wished to remain with Christ upon Mount Thabor to prevent Him from suffering, and in his love desired to die with Christ. He certainly showed the greatest courage when Christ was taken following Him even into the house of Caiphas. But alas, the instability of man! There Peter three times denied the Lord. But the look of forgiving love which Jesus cast upon him, forced from him tears of the deepest contrition. He atoned for his denial by suffering much for Christ. Under the Emperor Nero he was crucified for his faith at Rome, and by his own request with his head downwards, because he did not consider himself worthy to die like Christ.

Oh! That all sinners would seek by such penance to turn their evil into good!
 (*"The Church's Year"* by Fr. Leonard Goffine)

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 hal- lowed 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](http://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.

"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 27 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

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