

Sunday, August 3, 2014
Finding of the Body of St. Stephen



Sun. 3 Aug.	<u>Finding of the Body of St. Stephen, I Class</u>
8:30 am	Adeline Le Bigot & Family
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Eleanor Matthews
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 4 Aug.	<u>St. Dominic, Confessor, III Class</u>
7:00 am	Mike & Karen Scarry
12:15 pm	Cindy & Eric Pilegaard & family
Tues. 5 Aug.	<u>Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, III Class</u>
7:00 am	Priests of FSSP
6:30 pm	Stephen & Robin Roundtree
Wed. 6 Aug.	<u>Transfiguration of Our Lord, II Class</u>
7:00 am	†George Haun
12:15 pm	†Edward Haun
Thurs. 7 Aug.	<u>St. Cajetan, Confessor, III Class</u>
7:00 am	Pat Feldman
6:30 pm	St. Monica Sodality
Fri. 8 Aug.	<u>St. John Mary Vianney, Confessor, III Class</u>
7:00 am	Amy Rutschow
12:15 pm	Reed, Tait, Leif, Thor, & John Pilegaard
6:30 pm	†Irene Gibson
Sat. 9 Aug.	<u>St. Romanus, Martyr, IV Class</u>
7:00 am	Patrick Risse
9:00 am	Confraternity of St. Peter
Sun. 10 Aug.	<u>9th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class</u>
8:30 am	Maureen Meyer & family
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Charles Van Hecke
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,
 †Jennie Tomasi

Important Upcoming Dates

August 13—Fatima Procession
 August 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 August 23—English Martyrs Pilgrimage
 September 6—Girls' Club resumes
 September 7—Confirmation Classes begin
 October 18—26th Anniversary of the FSSP
 October 31—All Saints Eve Party

The Test of Hope

We prove the firmness of our faith by persevering in it in spite of its obscurity; we prove that our hope is strong by continuing to hope in spite of adversity and even when God seems to have abandoned us. As an act of faith made in the midst of darkness and doubts is more meritorious, so is it with the act of hope uttered in desolation and abandonment. The three theological virtues are the most appropriate and fitting means of uniting us to God; in fact the purer, more intense, and supernatural are our faith, hope, and charity, the more closely they unite us to Him. To help us reach this point, God leads us through the crucible of trials. The story of Job is re-enacted in some way in the life of every soul dear to God; he was tried in his property, his children, his own person, deserted by his friends, and ridiculed by his wife. He who had been rich and esteemed, found himself alone on a dunghill, covered from head to foot with horrible sores. But if God is good, if it is true that He desires our good, why does He permit all this? Why does He let us suffer? "For God made not death," says Sacred Scripture, "neither hath He pleasure in the destruction of the living... . It was the wicked who with hands and words invited death." Death and suffering are the consequences of sin, which God has not prevented because He has willed to leave man free. And yet not only sinners suffer, but the innocent also. God wishes to try them as gold is tried in the furnace, purifying them and raising them to a good, to a state of happiness immeasurably superior to the goods and the happiness of earth. Thus God permits the suffering of the innocent, and even uses the consequences of sin—wars, disorders, social and personal injustices—for the greater good of His elect. It is often true, however, that when we are undergoing a trial we neither see nor understand the reason for it. God does not account for His actions nor does He reveal His plans to us; therefore, it is difficult to endure in faith and hope—difficult, but not impossible, for God never sends us trials which are beyond our strength, just as He never abandons us unless we first abandon Him.

The least act of hope, of trust in God, made in the midst of trials, in a state of interior or exterior desolation, is worth far more than a thousand acts made in times of joy and prosperity. When we are suffering in mind or body, when we are experiencing the void of abandonment or helplessness, when we find ourselves a prey to the repugnances and rebellions of nature which would like to throw off the yoke of the Lord, we cannot pretend to have the comforting feeling of hope, of confidence; often we may even experience the opposite sentiment, and yet, even in this state we can make acts of hope and of confidence which are not felt but willed. The theological virtues are practiced essentially by the will. When they are accompanied by feeling, the practice of them is pleasant and consoling; but when the act must be made by the will alone, then this exercise is dry and cold, but is not for this reason of less merit; on the contrary, it is even more meritorious and therefore gives more glory to God. We should not, therefore, be disturbed if we do not *feel* confidence; we must *will* to have confidence, *will* to hope, to hope at any cost in spite of all the blows God may inflict on us by means of trials. This is the moment to repeat with Job: "Although He should kill me, I will trust in Him." We must not deceive ourselves, thinking we can go through these trials without having to fight against discouragement, against temptations to distrust, and perhaps even to despair. Through these trials, we reach the heroic practice of faith and hope; the virtues necessary for the attainment of sanctity. (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

His Prayer Is a Lie

I am sure you would like to know the prayer of a sinner who neither wants to give up his sin nor is much disturbed by the thought of offending God. Listen: the first word he says as he commences the prayer is a lie. He enters into contradiction with himself. "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." Stop a moment, my friend! You say that you are commencing your prayer in the name of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. But surely you must then have forgotten that it is only a week since you were in a crowd where everyone was saying that when one dies, everything is over and that being so, there must be neither God, nor Hell, nor Heaven. If, my dear friend, in your hardness of heart you really believe that, you do not come to pray; you come only to amuse yourself and to pass the time. Ah, you will tell me, those who talk that way are fairly uncommon. Nevertheless, there are some of them among those who are listening to me and yet who do not fail to say some prayers from time to time. Furthermore, I could, if I wished, show you that three-quarters of those who are here in this church, although they do not actually say such things with their lips, say them very often by their conduct and their way of life.

For if a Christian really thinks of what he says when he pronounces the names of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity, would he not be gripped with a fear which would amount almost to despair when he brought before his mind the image of the Father, which he has defaced in such a shocking way, the image of the Son, which is in his soul, which he has dragged through the slime of his vices, and the image of the Holy Ghost, of whom his heart is the temple and the tabernacle, which he has filled with squalor and obscenity?

Yes, my dear brethren, if the sinner had any knowledge of what he says and what he is, could he pronounce these three names without dying of horror? Listen to this liar: "Oh, my God! I firmly believe that you are here present." Is that so, my friend? Do you really believe that you are in the presence of God, before Whom the angels, who are without stain, tremble and dare not raise their eyes, before Whom they cover themselves with their wings, not being able to withstand the glory of that majesty which Heaven and earth cannot contain? And you, all covered in sins, kneeling there on one knee, do you dare to open your mouth to utter such an abomination? Say, rather, that you are merely imitating, that you are only doing what you see others doing, or, rather, that you are spending a few moments amusing yourself by acting as if you were praying. (*The Sermons of The Cure of Ars* translated by Una Morrissy)

Visiting Missionary

Fr. Binu Rathappilly, V.C., a Vincentian Missionary Priest from India, will be in our parish on Sunday, Aug. 10 to participate in the Annual Missionary Cooperation Plan. He will preach at all the Masses and will make an appeal on behalf of the Vincentian Missions.

The Vincentian Congregation (V.C.), a Religious Congregation, was founded in Kerala, India in 1904, modeled after the Congregation of the Mission founded by St. Vincent de Paul. Members of this flourishing Religious Congregation, all natives of India, are engaged in mission work in all parts of India and in East Africa.

~ 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.

Explorer Scout Information: August 10th

We are looking for a few good young people, ages 8 to adult, to become members of the Federation of North American Explorers. These members will be asked to commit to a program that will help them develop into men and women of character, virtue, service, leadership and spiritual strength. They will learn new skills and experience outdoor activities.

The Explorer training will start this fall and last a lifetime. Of course, not all are called to make the promise of an Explorer Scout; however it could be for our son or daughter. A short presentation will be given after each Mass on Sunday, August 10th with a chance for you to ask questions. Please join us. Visit www.ststephenfne.wordpress.com for more information.

Confirmation Classes to Begin September 7th

Registration is now open for Confirmation classes. Students must have completed their 12th birthday by June 1, 2012 in order to enroll. **Baptism Certificates** are required prior to the first class in order to participate.

Registration forms are available in the bookstore.

Classes will be held at 12:30 every Sunday in one of the classrooms.

Sunday Vespers/Benediction

Sunday Vespers takes place **every Sunday at 3:00pm** followed by Benediction. Pamphlets are available in the church entrance. "*All should come to our churches and there sing the praises of God, and be enriched with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*" - *Pope Pius XII, Mediator Dei*

Farewell to Fr. O'Neill

Today, Aug. 3rd, is Fr. O'Neill's last Sunday as parochial vicar at St. Stephen's.

We thank him for all the good work he has done here. We wish him continued success in his new assignment in El Paso, Texas. Our prayers go with him.

Welcome Rev. Mr. Simon Zurita

We wish to welcome Rev. Mr. Simon Zurita, FSSP to St. Stephen's. He will be exercising his diaconate here until near the end of August.

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.

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, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Patrick Corr, James Anthony Reslock, Joe Kaehler, Fr. Joseph Terra, Msgr. Edward Kavanaugh,