

Sunday, September 21, 2014
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 21 Sept. 15th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Father Matthew McNeely
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. Genius

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 22 Sept. St. Thomas of Villanova, Bishop & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Kevin Smith & Family
 12:15 pm †Dean DeMinico

Tues. 23 Sept. St. Linus, Pope & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am FSSP Priests
 6:30 pm Father Lyons

Wed. 24 Sept. Ember Wednesday, II Class

7:00 am †Father Kozina
 12:15 pm Thomas Kelley Garcia

Thurs. 25 Sept. Feria, IV Class

7:00 am Mary Pope
 6:30 pm Intentions of CSP

Fri. 26 Sept. Ember Friday, II Class

7:00 am Zeta Cammarota
 12:15 pm Baby James Reslock
 6:30 pm Perez Family (living & deceased)

Sat. 27 Sept. Ember Saturday, II Class

7:00 am Jack Presley Family
 9:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Guevarra

Sun. 28 Sept. 16th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Father Robert Dow, FSSP
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Philip Rutschow

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

September 24—40 Days For Life begins
 October 13—Fatima Procession
 October 31—All Saints Eve Party
 January 24—11th Annual Walk For Life
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations

Temperance

We may fail in our duty either because of the hardships and sacrifices we encounter, or because of the allurements of pleasure. Our help in the first case is the virtue of fortitude; in the second, the virtue of temperance. Temperance is the virtue which moderates in us the inordinate desire for sensible pleasure, keeping it within the limits assigned by reason and faith. Sin has produced in us the great discord by which the inferior part tends to rebel against the superior, and craves that which is contrary to the spirit. We shall never be able to defend ourselves against the attractions of pleasure without the help of this virtue, which has been infused by God into our souls for the express purpose of enabling us to regulate our disordered tendency to pleasure. As fortitude, with its accompanying virtues of magnanimity, patience and perseverance, is a sustaining power for our weakness in like manner, temperance, with the virtues which spring from it—sobriety, chastity, continence, modesty—controls our concupiscence. Nevertheless, although this virtue is a check, it has not only a negative task, to temper, restrain, and moderate the disordered love of pleasure, but it has also a positive one: that of regulating our passions and permitting us to use our senses in perfect harmony with the requirements of the spirit, in such a way that they do not disturb our spiritual life. In this way temperance, together with grace and the other virtues, heals and elevates our nature by reestablishing in us the harmony which was destroyed by sin. However, this cannot be realized without our cooperation which, in regard to temperance, consists above all in the mortification of our passions and senses. St. Paul says: "If you live according to the flesh you shall die; but if by the spirit you mortify the deeds of the flesh, you shall live." The virtue of temperance has been infused into us to "mortify the deeds of the flesh"; this mortification is not an end in itself, but it is an indispensable condition for the life of the spirit.

The beauty of the virtue of temperance lies in the fact that it helps us to turn back on the down-hill path taken by our first parents in consequence of their sin. In order to reestablish perfect harmony between spirit and matter, we have to ascend an arduous path. Just as a horseman, before setting out on a race, bridles his spirited horse, so we, to take this road, must impose on our flesh the strong bridle of mortification, so as to bring under control all its appetites and movements.

One easily understands how important mortification is in the realm of chastity: it is an illusion to think we can live chastely without bodily mortification, for neither the virtue nor the vow of chastity changes our nature, or makes us insensible to the allurements of the senses, the world, and the devil. The need of mortification of the sense of taste, however, is less understood. In this matter, even souls striving for perfection are quite free in admitting sensible pleasure, considering it a wholly innocent pleasure and of no consequence for the spiritual life. This is not so, since everything inordinate—even to the slightest degree—in the life of the senses eventually impairs, more or less, the life of the spirit and weakens it. In fact, there is disorder in the use of food and drink every time we allow the amount we use to be determined in any way by the pleasure we find in it, taking more than is necessary if we like it, or if we do not like it, showing displeasure or refusing to take it. This too is being a slave to our senses, and allowing ourselves to be dominated by sensible pleasure; it is to open a door to the rebellion of the senses against the spirit. St. Paul warns us: "Be not deceived...for what things a man shall sow, those also shall he reap.

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

The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

There are three stipulations to light: first, that it should be the first of creatures. *In the beginning God created heaven and earth; but the earth was formless and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of the Lord moved upon the waters. And God said, let there be light.* The most holy Virgin is first in worthiness. Anselm says, Nothing is equal to you, O Lady, nothing is comparable

The second stipulation of light: it is the fairest of corporeal creatures; for without it, nothing is fair, and all things are loathsome. Bernard: Take away the sun, and what will remain but darkness? Take away Mary, and what remains but darkness and cloudiness of mind? The spouse: *Behold, thou art fair, my love, behold, thou art fair!*: fair in the fairness of innocence; fair in the fairness of grace; fair in body, fair in mind. The royal Virgin is adorned with these shining qualities as gems and stars: *A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. A woman clothed with the sun.* For as the sun surpasses all the lights of heaven by virtue of its distinguished renown, so Mary surpasses all rational creation, after the Son, by the splendor and fairness of virtue and grace. *And the moon under her feet.* For every defect, and whatever weakness or corruption that exists, is beneath the Virgin, who arises above and surpasses creatures by virtue of a certain most excellent loftiness beyond all others; so that the moon may rightly be said to be under her feet. *And on her head a crown of twelve stars.* Bernard: A head wholly worthy to be crowned with stars, and glittering more brightly than they by far, it adorns them instead of being adorned by them. Who can reckon the value of those gems? Who can name the stars by which the royal diadem of Mary has been constructed, by which Mary is especially adorned and made beautiful? For the wonderful manner of conception whereby Mary was conceived—not in iniquity, like others—alone of all things powerfully blunts the sharpness of our minds, nor would I easily say that even an angelic eye would not be overcome by the splendor, the brightness, and the beauty accompanying the privilege of this conception.

The figure of Judith. When she descended into perilous combat against Holofernes at *break of day, the eyes of all were amazed, for they wondered exceedingly at her beauty.* So the Virgin venturing into solitary combat against the devil, as another Judith, if she did not cut off, yet she bruised his head at break of day—in the animation of life, in her conception—and *the eyes of all were and remain amazed, for they marveled exceedingly at her beauty.*

Another figure. Samson was taken captive by the beauty of Delilah, and slain in ridicule. The Virgin is Delilah, mighty Samson is the God of vengeance, who, taken captive by the Virgin's beauty, and having made the man from her, was crucified by the Jews. *You are all fair, O my love, you are all fair, and there is no spot in you.*

The third stipulation of light. It is universal, filling everything. Ambrose *On the Six Days of Creation*: The Virgin was not formed in weight and measure. She gave to all, she fulfilled all things. And just as the Sun of justice, Christ our God, causes his light to shine upon the good and the bad, so the unfailing light, the holiest Virgin, casts forth the rays of her mercy and offers herself without distinction, easily entreated by all, most merciful to all—in short, through most generous compassion, having mercy on the needs of all. Bernard: She was made all things for all; she made herself a debtor for the wise and the foolish through most abundant love. She opens to all the bosom of mercy, that all may receive from her plenteousness: redemption for the captive, healing for the sick, solace for the sorrowful, pardon for the sinner, grace for the just, joy for the angel, and glory for the entire Trinity, with the substance of human flesh for the person of the Son, so that there may be no one *who can hide himself from his heat.*

(Excerpt from *The Works of Saint Thomas of Villanova: Sermons* edited by John E. Rotelle O.S.A.)

Confraternity of St. Peter

On October 19th, after the 10:30 Mass, there will be a ceremony for Confraternity members who have joined since last October. If you are a new Confraternity member please let us know, by e-mail or by coming into the office or bookstore.

CSP members who have belonged longer than a year are invited to join in saying the CSP Prayer on that day.

Recognize How Precious Your Soul is to God

If, on the one hand, religion humbles a man by teaching him that he comes from nothing, that he was conceived in sin, that he is inclined to evil and incapable of any supernatural good, on the other hand, it raises him up and inspires him with great thoughts about himself, by teaching him what his nature is really capable of through the grace of God, what is the greatness of his destiny, and what it cost God to purchase his salvation.

The human soul, by its very nature, is endowed with the faculty of knowing God and the capacity for loving Him. The intelligence of the soul, transporting itself above all that is created and finite, has power to raise itself even to the contemplation of that Being who alone is uncreated and infinite, who is the source of all good and all perfection; it is able to form of Him an idea that is clear and accurate and indelible. The will of the soul is made to love this sovereign Good, which the understanding presents to it. The desires of the soul, which no created object can ever satisfy and which reach far beyond the limits of this life, tend necessarily to a Good that is supreme, eternal, and infinite, and which alone can content the soul and make it happy. (*The Spiritual Life* by Fr. Jean Nicolas Grou)

40 Days For Life

September 24-November 2

All are asked to be generous with their time, and to come spend just one hour as often as you like! Your presence at an abortion site speaks powerfully of your commitment to the unborn. By God's grace and through the power of prayer 8,973 babies have been saved from abortion, 101 abortion workers have experienced conversion of heart and quit their jobs, and 56 abortuaries have closed down for good!

This life-saving, peaceful, prayerful apostolate will be at 1442 Ethan Way, Sacramento (across the street from Cal Expo), Monday through Friday 7 am—7 pm. We offer women help, compassionate support, and encouragement so that they are better able to choose life for their babies.

11th Annual Walk for Life—Save the Date!

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Bus tickets will be on sale in the gym after all Masses in October. For earlier tickets or additional information contact Mike at 916-335-4553 or Kathleen at 916-204-9125

~ 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 & Ceasar Morales, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Patrick Corr, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Msgr. Kavanaugh, Katy Fiori, Katherine Kelly