

Sunday, September 28, 2014
16th Sunday after Pentecost



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

Mon. 29 Sept. Dedication of St. Michael the Archangel, I Class

7:00 am Father Michael Stinson
 12:15 pm Mary & Noel Byrne

Tues. 30 Sept. St. Jerome, Priest, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am Madeleine Reslock
 6:30 pm FSSP

Wed. 1 Oct. St. Remigius, Bishop & Confessor, IV Class

7:00 am †Father Kozina
 12:15 pm Katie Roundtree

Thurs. 2 Oct. Holy Guardian Angels, III Class

7:00 am †Francis J. Covy
 6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 3 Oct. St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, Virgin, III Class

7:00 am †Louise Revolta
 12:15 pm James Reslock
 6:30 pm †Jenny ("Jerry") Tomasi

Sat. 4 Oct. St. Francis of Assisi, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am FSSP Priests
 9:00 am Louis Reslock

Sun. 5 Oct. 17th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Jim & Monica Blazyack
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Eleanor Roberts

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

October 2—Holy Guardian Angels
 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

Blessed Are the Meek

By the gift of fortitude the Holy Spirit strengthens our heart; by the gift of piety He makes it meek and gentle. When we practice the virtue of meekness, we are doing our part—as we should do at all costs—to acquire that meekness of heart which Jesus has so strongly recommended and which He Himself tells us brings interior peace as its fruit. However, we have not yet acquired a sustained habitual meekness and the continual peace that accompanies it, if when we meet with unexpected trials, contradictions, injuries, or offenses, our meekness fails and our peace of heart vanishes, at least momentarily. These daily experiences, although painful and humiliating, are salutary, because, far more than any reasoning, they make us realize the insufficiency of our efforts and the extreme need we have of God's help. This help He has already willed to give us by infusing into our soul the gift of piety. When the Holy Spirit moves us through this gift, He quenches in us every trace of ill-feeling toward our neighbor; He softens our hardness and, so to speak, takes our heart in His hands to establish it in meekness and habitual peace.

As long as this poor heart remains in our own hands, we shall never succeed in being wholly master of it; but even if, in spite of all our frequently renewed resolutions, we fail in meekness every day, we should not on this account desist from our undertaking, but cheerfully renew our efforts and at the same time, beg God's help with humble persistence. Come, Holy Spirit, bend the stubborn heart and will, melt the frozen, warm the chill, guide the steps that go astray.

The beatitude which corresponds to the gift of piety is the reward promised to those who have attained perfect meekness by making use of their own efforts and the help of the Holy Spirit. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land." What land? First of all, that of their own heart since, St. Thomas says, "Meekness makes a man master of himself." Without this interior control of all our impulses—feelings of animosity, of antipathy, indignation, anger—we might be able to present an appearance of meekness as worldlings do when it is opportune, but we will never have that profound meekness which calmly faces all the trials of daily living. Furthermore, this complete self-control is what Jesus said would enable us to possess the land in a broader, more beautiful sense, that is, to possess the hearts of others. If we wish to be of service to our brethren, winning their hearts and orientating them to goodness and truth, that is, to God, we must not use force or an authority which exasperates others and arouses opposition, but rather, meekness, patience, and forbearance. This is the method used by Jesus who Himself announced His mission as one of meekness: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, wherefore He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the contrite of heart...to set at liberty them that are bruised."

The "Spirit of the Lord," the Holy Spirit, has also been given to us, and our hearts have been anointed with the oil of piety and meekness, to enable us to continue the mission of Jesus in the world. To this He invites us saying: "Go: Behold I send you as lambs among wolves"; and He commands us, as He commanded the Apostles, to go without staff or arms of defense, though we know that we shall meet opposition, struggles, and enemies.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, conquered the world by His meekness; so we too shall win the hearts of others to the degree in which, overcoming ourselves, we become lambs of meekness, ready, like Him, to suffer rather than to assert ourselves and defend ourselves by force.

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

All About the Angels

The angels are pure spirits, the mighty Princes of Heaven who stand before God, gazing on His unveiled presence. They are burning fires of love, filled to overflowing with the plenitude of happiness.

The angels are the perfect images of God, mirrors of His divine perfections, reflecting His love, His beauty, His holiness, His power, all His divine attributes and perfections, but each angel in his own special way.

No two angels are alike, no two are equal. God's perfections are infinite, and the countless millions of angels reflect these perfections in a divinely marvelous way. No two men, no two women, are identically alike, but the difference between them is relatively slight, whereas the difference between two angels is vast, complete. Every angel is specifically different from the other as one species differs from another. All the millions of men and women who people the world, all those who have ever lived or ever will live are of one and the same species, but each angel is a species all in himself!

The angels are unspeakably lovely, they have no shadow of imperfection, no defects. Nothing on this earth can possibly give us an idea of their resplendent glory. No painter, no poet, no artist ever conceived anything like them. They are living replicas of God's beauty.

Fra Angelico's pictures of the angels excel those of any other artist so that Michelangelo exclaimed on seeing them: "Angelico must have seen these angels in Heaven; otherwise, he could never have painted them as he has done." But even Angelico's pictures do not give us the faintest idea of the real angels.

St. Bridget, who was favored by God with heavenly visions, tells us that were we to see an angel in all his beauty, we should be so ravished with delight at the sight of him that we should die of love.

St. Frances of Rome was favored by the constant vision of her angel. She says that were an angel to appear in all his splendor, the light of the sun and moon and stars would become dim in comparison.

After Our Lord's Resurrection, we read how an angel descended from Heaven and rolled back the stone that had closed the holy sepulcher. The Sacred Scriptures say that the countenance of the Angel was like lightning and his raiment white as snow. His appearance was so full of majesty that the soldiers whom Christ's enemies had placed to guard the tomb were terrified and dared not to look on him, but fell to the ground as if dead.

When, therefore, the angels appear to men, they take a human form so as not to over-awe or confound those who look on them.

(*All About the Angels* by Fr. Paul O'Sullivan, O.P.)



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SEMINARY
 INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY OF THE FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER

Dear Fr. Lyons,

We are delighted to have received the generous donation from the teenagers of your parish. To hear that the funds were generated by their production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" is more pleasing still!

Please assure them that their donation will be put to good use. We are very close to capacity here at the Seminary, and we can use all of the prayers and general assistance that we can get.

My prayers are with you and the young people of your community. We are blessed to have your support.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

The Very Rev. Josef M. Bisig
 Rector

All Saints Eve—Donations and Help Needed

Please help us to celebrate the Communion of Saints by making a **donation of candy and cash**. This is an evening for everyone—young and old alike.

Would you be interested in running a game or snack booth? What fun it is to give treats to miniature St. Therese or St. John Bosco!

Envelopes for **donations** and sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule.

For more information or to help please call Marisol at 916-717-8908.

40 Days For Life—Prayer Vigil—Sign Up

Please join the world wide movement to protect mothers and babies! From Sept. 24—Nov. 2, Sacramento is joining hundreds of cities around the world participating in "40 Days for Life", a life-saving campaign with three components: prayer and fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil. The fall vigil will take place on the sidewalk at Women's Health Specialists, 1442 Ethan Way, Sacramento, Monday—Friday between 7am and 7pm. There is free parking along Hallmark Dr. and the clinic entrance is located there too. You are encouraged to make a weekly prayer vigil, if possible. You can register on line at: 40daysforlife.com/sacramento, or sign up in the vestibule after Mass. See the flyer posted in the vestibule for more information. You can also contact: Susan Money at 530-320-1614 or e-mail her at: susanalive@gmail.com. Those unable to participate in the prayer vigil are encouraged to pray and fast for this life-saving cause.

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.

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