

Sunday, November 23, 2014
24th & Last Sunday After Pentecost



Sun. 23 Nov.	24th & Last Sunday After Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Aurova Lopez
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Megan Eckerman
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 24 Nov.	St. John of the Cross, Confessor & Doctor, III Class
7:00 am	†Jonan Sneeringer
12:15 pm	†Brian Dodson
Tues. 25 Nov.	St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr, III Class
7:00 am	Peggy Brooks
6:30 pm	†Andrew De La Cruz
Wed. 26 Nov.	St. Sylvester, Abbot, III Class
7:00 am	†Jose Yumena
12:15 pm	Rose Wedinsky
Thurs. 27 Nov.	Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, IV Class
7:00 am	Monique & Michel DeNoyel & family
9:00 am	Henry & Elizabeth Meauze
Fri. 28 Nov.	Feria, IV Class
7:00 am	Barbara Graichen
12:15 pm	Holy Souls
6:30 pm	FSSP
Sat. 29 Nov.	St. Saturninus, Martyr, IV Class
7:00 am	Amalia Lopez-Lau
9:00 am	†Mary Margrett Regan
Sun. 30 Nov.	First Sunday of Advent, I Class
8:30 am	†Victoria Mercado
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Helen Reslock
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.

Important Upcoming Dates

November 27—Thanksgiving Day: **No Evening Mass**
 November 30—First Sunday of Advent
 December 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 December 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 January 24—11th Annual Walk For Life
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm
 May 3—May Procession and Solemn Mass
 May 10—First Holy Communion
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart

Strong and Active Love

“Love is never idle.” When true love of God enters the soul it gradually begets in it an interior dynamism so strong and forceful that it spurs it on to seek ever new ways of pleasing the Beloved, and makes it diligent in devising fresh means of proving its fidelity to Him. Love, in fact, is not nourished by sweet sentiments or fantasies, but by works. “This love,” says St. Teresa, “is also like a great fire which has always to be fed lest it should go out. Just so with these souls [in which God Himself kindles the flame of charity]; cost them what it might, they would always want to be bringing wood, so that this fire should not die.” The soul that truly loves does not stop to examine whether a task is easy or difficult, agreeable or repugnant, but undertakes everything in order to maintain its love. It even chooses by preference tasks which demand more sacrifice, for it knows that love is never truer than when it urges the sacrifice of self for the One loved. Hence, through love, “there is caused in the soul a habitual suffering because of the Beloved, yet without weariness. The spirit here has so much strength that it has subjected the flesh and takes as little account of it as does the tree of one of its leaves. In no way does the soul here seek its own consolation or pleasure, either in God, or in aught else.”

“If our love is perfect, it has this quality of leading us to forget our own pleasure in order to please Him whom we love”; it has the power to make us accept our trials with joy “and take the bitter with the sweet, knowing that to be His Majesty’s will.” Evidently, a love like this cannot be the fruit of our own human nature, which has such repugnance for suffering; it cannot be acquired, for it greatly surpasses the capacity of our nature, so poor and weak. God alone can infuse it little by little into souls who allow Him to guide them by the narrow way of interior purification. Yes, in aridity, in solitude of heart, in the privation of all light and consolation, the Holy Spirit enkindles in them this flame of charity, a flame which invades them increasingly as it finds them well disposed, that is, purified of everything contrary to love. When all resistances have been overcome, all dross eliminated, the flame of love will blaze up irresistibly and give to the soul the strength of a giant. The flame of love, St. John of the Cross explains, “causes [the soul] to go forth from itself, and be wholly renewed and enter upon another mode of being.” While formerly the soul feared and fled suffering, now it embraces it courageously.

The soul strongest in suffering is also the strongest in love. No creature in the world loved, nor will love God more than the most Blessed Virgin Mary, and none was, nor ever will be, stronger than she in suffering. See her at the foot of the Cross: she is a Mother, and she voluntarily assists at the terrible agony of her Son; she sees the nails being driven into His Flesh; she hears the heavy blows of the hammer; she beholds His Head crowned with thorns, vainly seeking a little repose on the hard wood of the Cross; she sees the Cross raised and her Son hanging on it, suspended between heaven and earth, disfigured by suffering, without the least consolation. Mary’s heart was pierced; nevertheless, she repeated her *fiat* with the same fullness of consent with which she had pronounced it at the joyous annunciation of her maternity. In her love, she found courage to offer her well-beloved Son for the salvation of His executioners. What mother could rival Our Lady in strength? Let us learn the secret of strong love at the foot of the Cross beside Mary, Queen of Martyrs, through love and suffering.
 (Divine Intimacy by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Listen For God in Peaceful Silence

One of the most admirable characteristics found in the life of Jesus Christ, our Master and our Model, is silence. All the mysteries of His mortal life and the ineffable mystery of His eucharistic life have this mark: the divine seal of silence.

Holy Church tells us that Jesus came to this world in the midst of universal silence: “While gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, Thy all-powerful Word leaped from Heaven, from the royal throne.” The first thirty years of the life of Jesus were wrapped in an impressive silence. Afterward came the three years of His public life. This was the time for speaking, the time for communicating with men. Yet even this period contains marvels of silence. Silence is something so characteristic of Christ’s Passion that the prophet commented on it, saying, “Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.”

In His eucharistic life, does not that unfathomable silence enveloping the Eucharist impress us profoundly and communicate itself to us when we approach?

Silence is not classified as a virtue, but it is the atmosphere in which virtues develop. At the same time, it is a sign of their maturity. Thus, just as we know that when the golden spikes of wheat appear in the field, the grain is ripe, so also, when a virtue is tinted with silence, we perceive that it is reaching maturity.

Let us make some reflections upon the silence of Jesus and try to reproduce it in our heart so that we can imitate it in our lives.

Let us consider the silence of Jesus during His hidden life, that is, the first thirty years of His life. This silence is truly inexplicable. If there had ever been a man with the right to speak, with all the gifts for attracting attention, with all the means to create a stir, that man was Jesus, because He was the Eternal Word of the Father, uncreated Wisdom, the Master whom men had awaited for so many centuries. Certainly, if there is any single event in history that merits a stir in its behalf, it is the coming of Christ to live among us. But instead, a hush shrouds His first thirty years.

The Gospel, speaking to us of these years, is restrained, almost mute. Many times we would like to know a little more of the mysteries of the infancy of Jesus to nourish our piety. But the Gospel makes only an occasional reference to the episodes of His first years. A few pages refer to the hidden life of our Lord, and each incident mentioned, like murmurs heard in quiet fields, emphasizes and accentuates the silence rather than destroys it: the adoration of the Magi, the flight into Egypt, the going up to the Temple—three events that do not disturb the silence of the hidden life, but make it more evident.

We feel this silence in a special manner in the house of Nazareth. It is the “house of silence”; we cannot conceive of it in any other way. Its very mention enshrines our souls in silence. When we meditate on the mysteries enacted there, we feel that all who dwelled there were divinely silent.

(When God is Silent by Luis M. Martinez)

FSSP Calendars and Ordos

Fraternity of St. Peter calendars and ordos are available to purchase in the bookstore. Please get them early as we often run out.

2015 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for next year are available for you to pick up in the vestibule of the church. If you do not see a box with your name on it and would like a set, please ask for them in the bookstore. Using weekly envelopes is very helpful to us, it eliminates a lot of extra paperwork, as all checks must be copied and recorded if they are loose.

Saint Francis Xavier Mission Trip

3 Trips for 2015:

1. Guadalajara, Mexico—Holy Week / Easter Week 2015 March 28—April 11. Cost \$900.00 plus airfare. Ages 16 and up. Or families (see website for more details)
2. Piura, Peru—July 28—Aug. 10 Cost \$2,300. (ages 16—21)
3. Piura, Peru—Aug. 14—24 Cost \$2,100. (ages 21 and up)

www.sfxmission.com
 SFXMission@gmail.com

Led by Fr. Heenan, FSSP & Fr. Lillard, FSSP
 Application deadline—December 19, 2014

Parish Swap

Do you have some items that you no longer need? Now you can list them on a page linked to our website. Just contact Rose-Mary at ParishSwap@gmail.com - give her a description of what you have, and your contact information. It is also possible to send a picture to be posted.

To view what is available, just click on the “links” button on the front page of www.sacfssp.com

For more information call the parish office.

9th Grade Religion Class Openings Next Semester

Fr. Perry’s Religion class is open for next semester. The class follows the “Mother of Divine Grace” syllabus, and is held at 9:00 am on Tuesday and Thursday. Please call the parish office if you are interested.

First Communion Class—Registration

Registration is now open for 1st Communion classes which will begin on January 10th. Pick up forms in the bookstore or parish office.

11th Annual Walk for Life—Save the Date!

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Bus tickets are still available — contact Mike at 916-335-4553 or Kathleen at 916-204-9125.

Prayer to St. Joseph

**V. He made him lord of his house.
 R. And prince over all his possessions.**

Let us pray:

O God, in Thy marvelous providence, Thou hast deigned to choose St. Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother. We ask Thee to grant that we may deserve to have him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our protector; who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, John Reyes, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Cesar Morales, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Msgr. Kavanaugh, Anaidel Perez Aravelo, Joan Blackburn, Luis Salazar, Bill Sneeringer, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary

...In Memoriam

†Charles Cantoni, †Manuel Nino, †Margaret Correa,
 †Cindy Yumoto, †Fr. Vladimir Kozina, †Philip Rutschow,
 †Jennie Tomasi