

Sunday, April 23, 2017
Low Sunday
Divine Mercy Sunday



Sun. 23 Apr. 8:00 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Low Sunday, I Class †Mercedes Baccay Pro Populo Mike Hays <u>Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction</u> Hays Family
Mon. 24 Apr. 7:00 am 12:15 pm	<u>St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen</u> , <i>Martyr, III Class</i> Bardet Family Quintero Family
Tues. 25 Apr. 7:00 am 6:30 pm	<u>St. Mark</u> , <i>Evangelist, II Class</i> Christine Pope Alvaro Zapata Jr.
Wed. 26 Apr. 7:00 am 12:15 pm	<u>Ss. Cletus & Marcellinus</u> , <i>Popes & Martyr III Class</i> †Aida Apaza FSSP
Thurs 27 Apr. 7:00 am 6:30 pm	<u>St. Peter Canisius</u> , <i>Confessor & Doctor, III Class</i> †Pascual Apaza Kirana Rogers
Fri. 28 Apr. 7:00 am 12:15 pm 6:30 pm	<u>St. Paul of the Cross</u> , <i>Confessor, III Class</i> †Soledad Carnenas Daniel Rogers Joseph Damore
Sat. 29 Apr. 7:00 am 9:00 am	<u>St. Peter of Verona</u> , <i>Confessor, I Class</i> Pamela Lewis Conrad Ortiz & Family
Sun. 30 Apr. 8:00 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	<u>2nd Sunday after Easter, II Class</u> President Donald Trump Pro Populo Richard & Louise Szabo President Donald Trump

...In Memoriam

†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopff, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes,
†Margaret Melusky, †Robert O’Kane, †Savino Salierno,
†Beverly Longtin, †Donald Strahota, †Ursula Uclaray,
†Marina Servande, †Rizal Robancho, †Mike McGrath,
†Sarah Vierra

Important Upcoming Dates

April 23—Live Performance of “Faustina”
May 6—First Holy Communion
May 13—Annual Great Marian Procession
May 25—Ascension of Our Lord
June 18-24 Camp Sacred Heart
June 23—Feast of the Sacred Heart
July 1—Feast of the Precious Blood
July 23-27—Annual Retreat

Meditative Reading

The simplest way of conversing with God is certainly vocal prayer, properly made; but as the soul progresses in the spiritual life, it is natural for it to feel the need of a more interior prayer, of one that is more intimate; and so it spontaneously turns toward mental prayer. If the divine attraction takes hold of the soul by giving it some sensible devotion, no difficulty is experienced in becoming recollected in God; on the contrary, this exercise becomes extremely easy and pleasant. But it is quite different when the soul is left to itself, especially if an excessive activity of the imagination makes thoughts on a definite subject almost impossible. St. Teresa remarks that there are many who suffer from these continual wanderings of the mind, in which “they go here and there, and are always upset, whether the fault is in their own nature, or whether God permits it.”

Those who are in this condition are easily tempted to give up mental prayer, which has become so painful that they find it almost impossible. The Saint has an entirely different opinion, and insists that even these can apply themselves to mental prayer with profit, although they ought to do it in a somewhat special way. This way consists in helping themselves by reading a book, which, she says, “will be a great help to recollection, and is practically indispensable; let them read, therefore, even if only a little, but let them read.”

This does not mean that we are to spend the time allotted to mental prayer in continual reading. Rather, we should use some devout book in which we can find, from time to time, a good thought which serves to recollect us in God, to put us in contact with Him. St. Therese of the Child Jesus, who suffered habitually from aridity, often used this method. “In my helplessness,” she said, “the Holy Scriptures and the *Imitation* are of the greatest assistance. . . It is from the Gospels, however, that I derive most help in the time of prayer; I find in their pages all that my poor soul needs, and I am always discovering there new lights and hidden, mysterious meanings.”

St. Teresa of Jesus, who before she was raised to the highest states of contemplation had long known aridity and the torment of importunate thoughts during prayer, confesses: “I passed more than fourteen years unable to meditate, except with the help of a book... With this help, I was able to collect my wandering thoughts, and the book acted like a bait to my soul. Often, I only needed to open the book; sometimes I read a little, at other times much, according to the favor which the Lord showed me.”
(*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD.)

From the Pastor

Divine Mercy Sunday

In order to better participate in Divine Mercy Sunday (Low Sunday), we will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 p.m., the chanting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction. At 4 p.m. the Divine Mercy play will be presented in the parish hall. Please plan to participate!

Thanks

Fr. Saguto, FSSP, the North American District Superior, wrote to express his thanks for our participation in the collection for the Fraternity seminary taken up last month. Our parish contributed \$2,685.80

Annual Retreat—July 23-27

This year’s retreat will be preached by Fr. Joseph Mary Brown, CSJ. Father Brown preached the retreat for the FSSP deacons’ retreat the year Fr. Curtis was ordained to the diaconate. Father Curtis says that it was the best retreat he ever went to! Let’s have a full house in order to take full advantage of having such a wonderful priest.

Secure your place at the retreat by filling out a form and leaving a deposit as soon as possible. Forms are available in the parish office or bookstore.

If you are unable to go on the retreat, but would like to help make it possible for someone else to go, stop by the parish office or bookstore.

Camp Sacred Heart 2017

Camp Sacred Heart will be held June 18-24 this year. Registration is open to boys age 9-18. Boys unknown to the chaplain must get a letter of recommendation from a priest.

For more information call the parish office or 916-223-3112. You may stop by the parish office or bookstore for registration forms.

Sponsors needed for Camp

If you are able to help sponsor a boy for camp, please consider doing so. There is a great need, especially for large families. Your help is very much appreciated!

Confraternity of St. Peter 2017 Pilgrimage to Italy & Slovenia

With Fr. James Fryar, FSSP—CSP Chaplain
Sept. 9-18, 2017

For more info—brochures available in the bookstore
or call 800-334-5425
Special discount if you register before May 31st!

Around the Parish

Congratulations to Matt & Kathleen Bowen on the birth of their ninth child, Noel Gabriel Isaac! Noel was baptized at St. Stephen’s on April 16th.

Congratulations to Milo Monjaraz & Mary Pope who were married here on Saturday, April 22. Milo was also baptized, confirmed, and made his First Communion on the same day.

New Album—”Requiem”

Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

Order your copy at St. Stephen’s Book & Gift Store today. Stop by or call 916-223-3112. Copies available to pick up on May 12, 2017.



SAINT LUKE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



Faustina
MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY

A LIVE MULTIMEDIA DRAMA WITH A MODERN MESSAGE OF MERCY

Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 p.m.

St. Stephen the First Martyr Parish Hall
5461 44th Street, Sacramento, CA 95820

Admission: Free-Will Offering
Suitable for Ages 13 & Up

Info: St. Stephen Parish Office
(916) 455-5114 or www.sacfsp.com

PERFORMED BY MARIA VARGO | DIRECTED BY LEONARDO DEFILIPPIS

WWW.DIVINEMERCYDRAMA.COM

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Renee Burns, Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Paulette Brady,
Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, John Newaz, Marne Merino,
Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher, Fr. Goodwin, Margaret
Northan, Jean Haun, Sandra De Monaco, Mitzi Vandenburg,
Gerald Foy, Pamela Lewis, Strahota Family,
Helen DeCarlo, Jim Greenwell, Barbara Cogan ,
Mary, Ramon and Robert Daley



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Mother of Perpetual Help! Thank you for all the Blessings for our Family!

PREGNANT? NEED HELP? - Call 1-800-712-HELP

HURTING AFTER ABORTION? - CALL 1-877-HOPE4ME



Saint Stephen
The First Martyr Parish
 Served by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter

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 Rev. Fr. Joshua Curtis, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*
 Rev. Fr. Dominic Savoie, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*

www.sacfssp.com

If you wish to receive official notifications from the parish, subscribe to email: ststephenfssp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MASS SCHEDULE
TRADITIONAL ROMAN RITE

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Low Mass
 10:30 a.m. High Mass
 1:30 p.m. Low Mass
 6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Monday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
Tuesday: 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
Thursday: 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Friday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Saturday: 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
Holy Days: Please call the office or consult the bulletin or website

DEVOTIONS

Rosary:

- Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and after the 1:30 p.m. Mass
- Following the 12:15 p.m. Mass on weekdays

Holy Face Novena: 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday

St. Monica Novena: First Thursday of every month, following the 6:30 p.m. Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: after 6:30 p.m. Mass every Tuesday

Fatima Procession: 13th of every month- May to October - following the 6:30 p.m. Mass on weekdays, the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturdays, and the 1 p.m. Mass on Sundays

Men's Holy League: 3rd Wednesday of each month. Holy Hour 7pm—8 pm

CONFESSION

- One half hour before all Masses
- Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION
THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursday: 3:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Friday: After 6:30 p.m. Mass
Saturday: After 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. (Holy Hour for Vocations)
First Friday: Benediction after 12:15 p.m. Mass

SICK CALLS

If anyone is in need of the Sacraments (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?

Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or Bookstore.

ENVELOPES AND ON-LINE GIVING

Envelopes are very helpful for our bookkeeping. PLEASE pick them up in the Parish Office or Bookstore.

For on-line giving go to the parish website:
www.sacfssp.com

St. Bernadette Fund – to aid parishioners in need!
 Donations may be made on-line.