

Sunday, December 10, 2017  
Second Sunday of Advent



<b>Sun. 10 Dec.</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent, I Class</b>
8:00 am	Ann & Jim Mentkowski
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:30 pm	†Sarah Vierra
6:00 pm	Colin & Catherine McNamara
<b>Mon 11 Dec.</b>	<b>St. Damasus I, Pope &amp; Confessor, III Class</b>
7:00 am	Ann & Jim Mentkowski
12:15 pm	Ben Roundtree & Family
<b>Tues. 12 Dec.</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe, I Class</b>
7:00 am	†Edith DiMaria
6:30 pm	Di Giovanni Family
<b>Wed. 13 Dec.</b>	<b>St. Lucy, Virgin &amp; Martyr, III Class</b>
7:00 am	†Josef Schauchmann
12:15 pm	Crocker Family
<b>Thurs. 14 Dec.</b>	<b>Feria of Advent, III Class</b>
7:00 am	†Josef Schauchmann
6:30 pm	Raymond Alatorre & Family
<b>Fri. 15 Dec.</b>	<b>Feria of Advent, III Class</b>
7:00 am	Jacob Righetti
12:15 pm	†Mike McGrath
6:30 pm	Eric Lendewig
<b>Sat. 16 Dec.</b>	<b>St. Eusebius, Bishop &amp; Martyr, III Class</b>
5:30 am	Tom & Monique Rance
7:00 am	Doug Barry
9:00 am	†Eleuterio Hernandez
<b>Sun. 17 Dec.</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent, I Class</b>
8:00 am	Ana Cristina Hernandez
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:30 pm	Luiza Diaz
6:00 pm	Isabella & Matthew Wagner

#### ...In Memoriam

†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopf, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes,  
†Margaret Melusky, †Robert O’Kane, †Savino Saliero,  
†Beverly Longtin, †Donald Strahota, †Ursula Uclaray,  
†Marina Servande, †Rizal Robancho, †Mike McGrath,  
†Sarah Vierra, †Mary Daley, †James Greenwell,  
†Josef Schuchmann, †Paulette Brady, †Felipa Lopez,  
†Jorge Munoz, †William J. Foy, †Patricia Becker,  
†David Munoz Ortiz, †Paige Langdon, †Francis Hadano,  
†Fatima Moitoso, †George Lane

<b>Important Upcoming Dates</b>	
Dec. 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of diocese
Dec. 16	Rorate Mass 5:30 am
Dec. 17	Gaudete Sunday
Dec. 26	St. Stephen’s Day—Altar Guild Ceremony
Dec. 27	Feast of St. John—blessing of wine
Dec. 31	No 6:00 pm Mass
Jan. 6	Annual Christmas Party
Jan. 13	Girls groups meet
March 20	Confirmation 6:00 pm

#### Seeking God In Prayer

“When thou shalt pray, enter into thy chamber, and having shut the door, pray to thy Father in secret” (*Mt 6,6*). Exterior solitude, withdrawing physically from the noise, from the occupations and preoccupations of this world is a great means, and even, at least to a certain point, an indispensable means for leading a serious interior life.

Every Rule of religious life, even of a simple secular institute, prescribes certain hours for prayer, during which every occupation must be firmly laid aside, and one must retire into solitude in order to renew one’s spirit by means of a more direct and more intense contact with God.

Without these prayerful intervals, it is a real illusion to pretend to live a spiritual life—not only a serious one, but even the most elementary one.

Every activity, no matter how important or urgent it is, must therefore be suspended at the prescribed time, so that all the strength of the soul may be concentrated in the supreme activity of prayer. These hours are sacred. A soul consecrated to God cannot, of its own initiative, subtract even a small part of this time under pain of seeing its spiritual life weaken. The time of prayer is the time to apply Jesus’ great commandment: “Seek ye therefore first the kingdom of God” (*ibid. 6,33*), this kingdom that we now know is within us. In order to find it, we must have these moments of retirement, solitude, total avoidance of creatures, of business and occupations. During these blessed minutes we can and should effectively “go forth” from all things and “withdraw ourselves” from all creatures to seek God hidden within us.

When the Samaritan woman asked Jesus where the Lord should be adored, He answered, “God is a spirit, and they that adore Him, must adore Him in spirit and in truth” (*Jn 4,24*). The Divine Master tells us that more important than the *place* in which we pray, is the interior spirit with which we pray, for from it alone can flow the “true adoration” of God, who is “spirit” and truth. Although retirement and material solitude are of great importance in prayer, they will not suffice if they are not accompanied by interior recollection.

St. John of the Cross says, “. . . shutting the door upon thee (that is to say, *shutting thy will upon all things*), pray to thy Father in secret” (*SC, 1,9*). This does not mean to shut only the material door of our room, but that it is necessary to close our will to everything, that is, as the Saint again says, to “shut all thy faculties upon all creatures.”

If we wish to find God in prayer, we must begin by making this very firm decision of our will: to put aside everything—all care, all preoccupation with human things—and concentrate all the powers of our souls on God alone.

We often give the prescribed time to prayer, but we do not give our hearts to it; they are still preoccupied with earthly cares.

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

#### From the Pastor

The Advent Season is as short as it can possibly be this year; we’re already a third of the way through it. What would be the fourth Sunday of Advent will be Christmas Eve. Let’s not waste the little time we have left to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas. If it’s been awhile since we’ve been to confession that should be high on our list of things to do. Participation at daily Mass (for those who can) is the best prayer we can offer. Gathering the family daily around the lit Advent wreath to pray the Rosary is another beautiful way to prepare spiritually for Christmas. Reflecting on how much our Lord suffered by becoming man for us should make it easier for us to sacrifice some pleasure for Him – food, drink, entertainment. And let’s not forget to attend in some way to the needy among us. It is, after all, the season for giving – in imitation of Our Lord who gave Himself to us. The sooner we can instill this lesson into the hearts of our children, the better. Have a blessed Advent.

Mary, Mother of our Divine Savior, pray for us!

#### Special Masses this Week

- \* Tuesday, Dec. 12th, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - patroness of our diocese. The 6:30 pm Mass will be sung.
- \* On Saturday, Dec. 16th, our annual “Rorate Mass” will be celebrated at 5:30 am. This is a beautiful Mass in honor of Our Lady. The church is lit entirely by candle light. If you have never been to it, please make the effort to come! You will be glad you did!

#### Prayer for Priestly and Religious Vocations

**Priest:** Let us pray for priestly and religious vocations.  
**All:** O God, we earnestly beseech Thee to bless the Church with many priests, brothers, and sisters, who will love Thee with their whole hearts, be faithful to their vocations, and gladly spend their entire lives to teach Thy truths, serve Thy Church, and to make Thee known and loved.

**Priest:** Bless our families, bless our children.  
**All:** Choose from our homes those who are needed for Thy work.

**Priest:** O Mary, Queen of priestly and religious vocations:  
**All:** Pray for us. Pray for our priests, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us the grace of many more. Amen.

(Please offer your reception of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month for vocations)

#### Prayer of Parents for Priestly and Religious Vocations

O God, grant that at least one of our sons may become a priest or religious brother, 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 Thee a holy priest, brother, or sister! Amen. (Conclude with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be)

#### Around the Parish

**Congratulations** to Tom & Katie Scarry on the birth of their 5th child, Charles Nicholas! Charles was baptized on Dec. 8th at St. Stephen’s.

**Pilgrim Virgin Statue** - If you would like to have our Blessed Mother’s image spend a week with you in your home, sign up in the book store. First come, first served! You may pickup the statue on one Sunday and return it the next. By taking the image you’re agreeing to pray a family Rosary daily for the duration of the visit.

#### Christmas Mass Schedule Holy Day of Obligation

11:00	Confessions
11:15 P.M.	Hymns and Carols
12:00	Midnight Solemn Mass
8:00 A.M.	Low Mass
10:30 A.M.	Solemn Mass
1:30 P.M.	Low Mass
6:00 P.M.	Low Mass

#### Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party will be on Saturday, January 6, 2018! Tickets are \$10 or \$25 per family and will be sold after the Sunday Masses. If you would like to volunteer to help or be a part of the talent show entertainment, please contact Yesenia Rangel at (916) 682-9600 or [YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com](mailto:YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com).

#### Chesterton Society Meeting: DATE CHANGE!

**December 19th at 7:30pm**

We will meet in one of the classrooms right after the 6:30 pm Mass.

We will discuss chapter 3 of *St. Francis of Assisi “Francis the Fighter.”*

All are welcome!

#### Brown Bag Lunch Project

Please help us fill our food closet:

Below is a list of the food needed.

*Must be non-perishable*

Tuna, chicken, salmon, other easy-to-open, single portion meats, or lunchables

Apple sauce cups or other fruit cups

Healthy snacks like fruit rolls, breakfast bars, soft granola bars

Crackers or chips

Deserts like cookies

Bottles of water

Plastic utensils, packages of lunch bags, and napkins

Jars of peanut butter, jelly/preserves

Cash donations also welcome at the office or bookstore

#### Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Sandy Sneary,  
Barbara Jeong, John Newaz, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher,  
Fr. Goodwin, Margaret Northan, Jean Haun,  
Sandra De Monaco, Pamela Lewis, Helen DiCarlo, Barbara  
Cogan, Ramon and Robert Daley, Liz Nicolini, Julie Jeong,  
William (Pat) Cummings, Lorraine Peterson, John Testa,  
Mike Trainor, Michael Cuellar, Alice Smith,  
Patricia Quinn, William Eckerman, Mitzi Vandenburg



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## Knights of Columbus Council #16419

Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month  
at **6:00 pm**

**Grand Knight: Mike McVean**  
**(916) 747-3021**

**Membership: Greg Bronson**  
**(530) 503-7473**



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# Saint Stephen

## The First Martyr Parish

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Rev. Fr. Joshua Curtis, F.S.S.P., Parochial Vicar  
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If you wish to receive official notifications from the parish, subscribe to email: [ststephenfssp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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

**Knights of Columbus:** 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6 pm

### 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](http://www.sacfssp.com)

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

### 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.