

**Sunday, December 31, 2017**  
**Sunday in the Octave of Christmas**



**Sun. 31 Dec. Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, II Class**

8:00 am †Christopherson Cortes  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:30 pm FSSP  
 6:00 pm FSSP

**Mon 1 Jan. Octave Day of Christmas, I Class**

8:00 am †Joe Ghidinelli  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:30 pm Dolores M. Hartnell

**Tues. 2 Jan. Holy Name of Jesus, II Class**

7:00 am Gary Chavira  
 6:30 pm †Louis Solton

**Wed. 3 Jan. Feria in Christmastide, IV Class**

7:00 am †Jesús Elizondo  
 12:15 pm †Alexandrea Hardin

**Thurs. 4 Jan. Feria in Christmastide, IV Class**

7:00 am Soon & Family  
 6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

**Fri. 5 Jan. Feria in Christmastide, IV Class**

7:00 am Marina—Thanksgiving  
 12:15 pm †Nostromo Ballesteros  
 6:30 pm †Romeo, †Ronald & †Catalino Antonio

**Sat. 6 Jan. Epiphany of the Lord, I Class**

7:00 am †Francis Baccay  
 9:00 am †Josefina Cawayan

**Sun. 7 Jan. The Holy Family, II Class**

8:00 am †Aimee Santos  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:30 pm Yesenia Rangel & Family  
 6:00 pm Alexander McCluskey

**...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, †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

**Important Upcoming Dates**

Jan. 1—Octave of the Nativity  
 Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany water  
 Jan. 6—Annual Christmas Party  
 Jan. 13—Girls groups meet  
 Jan. 14—1st Communion classes begin  
 Feb. 2—Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin  
 Feb. 14—Ash Wednesday  
 Feb. 22—Chair of St. Peter  
 March 20—Confirmation 6:00 pm  
 May 5—First Holy Communion

**Jesus Our Mediator**

During the Christmas days our thoughts, centered on Jesus, have revealed to us a little of the great “mystery which hath been hidden from eternity in God” (Eph 3,9), the mystery we now wish to consider in synthesis, in order to arouse in ourselves greater admiration for its “unfathomable riches.”

The infinite distance between God and man, the impassable abyss, the breaking of every bond of friendship—all this was the tremendous consequence of sin. Then between God and man appeared the sweet Babe of Bethlehem; suddenly and completely the whole situation changes: distance is overcome and across the abyss a wonderful bridge is erected which unites earth with heaven and re-establishes relations of intimacy between God and men. This bridge is Jesus, the “only Mediator between God and man,” who “joins earth to heaven in a truly remarkable manner” (Mystici Corporis). In His office as Mediator, Jesus is really “at the center”: He is the point of union between divinity and humanity. His mediation has all the qualifications necessary for perfectly pleasing God, since He Himself is true God; at the same time, because He is true man and as such represents the whole human race, Jesus can make worthy satisfaction to God for the entire debt of sinful mankind.

The divinity possessed by Jesus as the Word is united in His Person with the humanity He possesses as man. These two natures are not merely in juxtaposition, but they embrace each other; even more, they are united in one Person, the Person of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. In Him and through Him, all mankind is readmitted to friendship with the heavenly Father. In Him all can find again the way to reach union with the Trinity.

The eternal Father deigned to reveal this wonderful mystery to St. Catherine of Siena: “It is My wish that you consider the bridge I have built in the Person of my only-begotten Son, and that you notice that it reaches from earth to heaven, because in Him the majesty of the divinity is united with the lowliness of your human nature. It was necessary to construct this bridge in order to repair the road which had become impassable and to open a passage across the trials of this world to eternal life” (Dialogue).

“For it hath well pleased the Father that in Jesus all fullness should dwell, and that through Him He should reconcile all things unto Himself, making peace through the blood of His Cross, both as to the things that are on earth, and the things that are in heaven” (Col 1,19,20).  
 (Divine Intimacy Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen)

**From the Pastor**

Let us pray fervently, asking for God’s blessings in this New Year upon ourselves, our parish our country, and the entire world. What will happen in 2018 is hidden from our eyes. Knowing however, that it will be guided by Divine Providence gives us a sense of security. As long as we love God, whatever happens will redound to our benefit. For some of us, this will be our last year on earth. Are we prepared to stand before the judgment seat of God? What do we need to do to make ourselves ready—a good confession? giving up some vice? developing a regular prayer life? For those of us who survive the year, it’s to be hoped that we will make good use of this gift of time to better prepare ourselves for the day that we, too, will meet the Lord.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death!

**Mass Schedule for January 1st and Epiphany**

- \* January 1, the Circumcision of Our Lord, is not a holy day of obligation this year because it falls on a Monday. However, there’s no better way to begin the New Year than by going to Mass. Hopefully, as many as possible will come to Mass tomorrow. Masses will be at 8:00 am, 10:30 am (sung), and 1:30 pm.
- \* This Friday and Saturday, January 5th and 6th) are the first of the month.
- \* This Saturday, January 6th, is the Feast of the Epiphany. There will be a solemn Mass at 9:00 am.

**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

**Annual Christmas Party**

Our annual Christmas party will be on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 5:30 pm. 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).

**Around the Parish**

**Congratulations** to Leon & Dianna Dao on the birth of their third daughter, Roselina Josephine! Roselina was baptized at St. Stephen’s on the Vigil of Christmas.

**Congratulations** to Mr. Jeremy Henson who was baptized, confirmed and received First Holy Communion at Stephen’s Church on Dec. 23rd!

**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.

**Chesterton Society Meeting**  
**January 9th 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 builder.”

**Epiphany Chalk Blessing**

*The lintel of the main door of the house is marked with the blessed chalk by the father of the household in the following manner:*

20+C+M+B+18 while saying the following prayer:  
 The Three Wise Men  
 C Caspar  
 M Melchior  
 B & Balthasaar, followed the star of God’s Son who became Man  
 20 Two-thousand  
 18 and eighteen years ago  
 + May Christ  
 + Bless our home  
 + and remain with us  
 + through the new year.

Almighty God, incline Thine ear. Bless us and all who are gathered here. Send Thy holy angel who will defend us, and fill with grace all who dwell here. Amen.

**Blessing of Epiphany Water**

This beautiful ceremony will take place after the 6:30 pm Mass on Friday Jan.5th. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

If you would like to leave water to be blessed, please do not leave small containers—gallon size minimum. Smaller containers may be filled up from the containers in the vestibule after the blessing. Also, make sure your container is well marked with your name—on the bottle, not on the lid.

**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, William (Pat) Cummings, Lorraine Peterson, John Testa, Mike Trainor, Michael Cuellar, Alice Smith, Patricia Quinn, William Eckerman, Mitzi Vandenburg, Richard Cummings



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**Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month**  
**@ 6:00 pm**  
**Grand Knight: Mike McVean**  
**(916) 747-3021**  
**Membership: Greg Bronson**  
**(530) 503-7473**



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**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

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

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