

SAINT STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH INFORMATION	SACRAMENTS	DEVOTIONS
PARISH OFFICE Email stephenproto@yahoo.com Website www.sacfssp.com Phone 916-455-5114 Address 5461 44th Street Sacramento, CA 95820 Bookstore 916-223-3112 PRIESTS Fr. Joshua Curtis, FSSP <i>Pastor</i> frcurtis@fssp.com Fr. David Franco, FSSP <i>Par. Vicar</i> fr.franco.sacramento@proton.me Fr. Evan Schwab, FSSP <i>Par. Vicar</i> father.schwab@gmail.com Fr. Evaristus Eshiwu <i>In Residence</i> STAFF Tish Gallagher <i>Parish Secretary</i> stephenproto@yahoo.com Keven Smith <i>Choirmaster</i> ksmith_writer@yahoo.com Kelly Mantsch <i>Parish Bookkeeper</i> ststephenbusinessoffice@gmail.com Stella Zapata <i>Custodian & Office Asst.</i> Beth Afsari <i>Bookstore Asst.</i> Kate Townsend <i>Bookstore Asst.</i> Ana Warner <i>Bookstore Asst.</i> Francis Dugyon <i>Sacristan</i>	MASS SCHEDULE Sun 7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm (<i>Sung</i>), 6 pm Mon - Fri 7 am, 12 pm, 6 pm Sat 7 am, 8:30 am, 12 pm Holy Day Check bulletin. CONFESSIONS We have confessions every weekday, starting one half hour before the beginning of Mass. There are also limited times on Sunday for confessions. Sun 6:30 am & 5:30 pm Mon - Fri 6:30 am, 11:30 am, 5:30 pm Sat 6:30 am, 8 am, 11:30 am BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS Contact the Parish Office. Baptisms should be within the first two weeks after birth; marriages generally require six months of preparation. SICK CALLS Call the Parish Office to schedule a home visit for the Sacraments. <i>If someone is dying</i>, outside of office hours, dial 916-455-5114, then press 1. You will be transferred immediately to the priest-on-call.	THE DIVINE OFFICE Tu - Fr 8:50 am, <i>Terce</i> 11:20 am, <i>Sext</i> 5 pm, <i>Vespers</i> Sat 11:20 am, <i>Sext</i> 5 pm, <i>Vespers & Compline</i> EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION Thurs 1 pm - 6 pm THE HOLY ROSARY Sun 6:30 am & 7 pm Last Sat After the 8:30 am (<i>15 decades</i>) OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP Tues After the 6 pm PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH Wed After all Masses PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS Sun After the 1 pm Thurs After all Masses SAINT MONICA SODALITY 1st Th After the 6 pm Mass THE SACRED HEART 1st Fri After all Masses FATIMA PROCESSION The 13th of the month, May to Oct.
STAYING CONNECTED	THE FSSP	DONATIONS
PARISH ONLINE NEWSLETTER To receive the bulletin and important announcements online, call the Parish Office to register. NEW PARISHIONERS Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or Bookstore.	St. Stephen the First Martyr is a personal parish of the Diocese of Sacramento. It is served by priests of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. 	ST. BERNADETTE FUND Please consider giving to fellow parishioners in need. Donations can be made online or at the Parish Office. ONLINE GIVING Available at the parish website. www.sacfssp.com
Envelopes are very helpful for our bookkeeping, unless you are giving online. Please pick them up in the Parish Office.		

LITURGICAL CALENDAR		
9 Nov	Sun	Ded.: Archbasilica Most Holy Redeemer, II
	7 am	Preservation of the FSSP & Latin Mass
	8:30 am	Hector & Angela Romero
	10 am	+ Presco & Lourdes Guban
	11:30 am	+ Dennis Brooks
	1 pm	<i>Pro populo</i>
	6 pm	Godoy – De la Paz family
10 Nov	Mon	St. Andrew Avellino, III
	7 am	Frieda Oettle
	12 pm	+ Rigoberto Morales
	6 pm	+ Diana Cuningham
11 Nov	Tues	St. Martin of Tours, III
	7 am	Phil Carey & family
	12 pm	+ Clarita & Clavela Santos
	6 pm	+ Salvador Pineda
12 Nov	Wed	St. Martin I, III
	7 am	MG Romero
	12 pm	Michelle Hernandez & family
	6 pm	+ Timoteo Morales
13 Nov	Thurs	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, III
	7 am	+ Jose de la Cruz
	12 pm	+ Jim Kasak
	6 pm	Cecelia McGhee
14 Nov	Fri	St. Josephat, III
	7 am	Mark Kemalyan
	12 pm	Matthew Roche
	6 pm	+ Arnold Knoll
15 Nov	Sat	St. Albert the Great, III
	7 am	Michael Jimenez
	8:30 am	Eric Romero & family
	12 pm	+ Garry John Moes

PRAYER LIST

Josephine Cuellar, Mother Regina, Donna Hopkins, Inez Mora, Chuck Teixeira, Carol Cummings, Ron Mantsch, Daniel Huynh, Avianna Ramirez, Ed Schneider, Paula Belen, Ralph Clark, Michelle DiGiovani, Mark Mitchell, Phil Carey, Judy Bennett, Jasinkas, Debbie Vilar, Dominick Damore, Judi Geldermann, Elaine Testa, Monique Rance, Karen Rich, Stephanie Real-Saavedra, Theresa Real, Don Varley, Dolly Lewis, Mary Ann Cuny, Barbara Graichen, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher, Barbara Cogan, Jordan Aranas, JoAnn Mutterties

Please keep all the sick and homebound of the parish in your daily prayers, as well as the loved ones of fellow parishioners, and our adult catechumens and candidates.

IN MEMORIAM

Judy Roberts, Jim Gallagher, Geoff Pyka, Jim Kasak, Anthony Correa, Helen DiCarlo, Daniel Nguyen, Fr. Salgado, Jazmin Orozco, Peter Luong Van Tran, Anne Marie Ternes, Bob Crocker, Kathleen Scarry, Bill Sneeringer, Marion Nicholas, Vincent DiCarlo, Estelle McKnerney, Alfred Solorio, Fr. James Buckley, Rudy Nagel, Paul Graff, Pietro Lopresti, John Hymes, Teodosio Dino, Barbara Chu, Nellie Reyes, Albert Treskon, Violet Corr, Mary Hayes, Derald Goyette, Bonnie Williams, Frank Bowa, Ramon Daley, Eileen Morrison, Richard & Louise Szabo, Cesar Oliva, Joseph Damore, Ken Taylor, Joseph Menezes, Edgardo Mercado, Barbara Jeong

PARISH GROUPS

Choir & Music Classes & Organ Society **Keven Smith**
Youth & Adults, Sunday & Thursday ksmith_writer@yahoo.com

Altar Guild & Altar Guild Minor..... **Mike Solton**
Boys 7 – 18, Third Saturday 916-832-2859

Troops of Saint George (Scouting)
Boys 6 – 18 CPT@tsgtroop750.org

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary..... **Amy Rutschow**
Girls 14 – 18, First Saturday 916-340-5782

Rosa Mystica **Hannah Fauci**
Girls 9 – 13, First Saturday 323-590-8003

Little Flowers **Katie Scarry**
Girls 5 – 8, First Saturday 530-945-6947

Youth Group..... **Liz Hernandez**
Ages 14 – 18, Second & Fourth Friday 916-396-4062

OLSW Co-op **Inocencio Rangel**
Ages 14 – 18, Tuesday & Thursday 916-804-6359

CCM Co-op..... **Blanca Pimentel**
Ages 6 – 14, Thursday blancaerodria@yahoo.com

Veritas (Young Adult Group)..... **Kyle Watson**
Ages 18 – 39, Third Tuesday veritasnorcal@gmail.com

Adult Catechism..... **Fr. Joshua Curtis, FSSP**
Adults, Second & Fourth Thursday frcurtis@fssp.com

Chesterton Society **Spencer Roundtree**
Adults, Second Tuesday sac.chesterton@gmail.com

Knights Penitent..... **Alex Townsend**
Adult men, regional meetings 415-328-8759

Ushers..... **Roger Soto**
Adult men, Sundays & Holy Days 209-610-1163

Security **Federico Serrano**
Adult Men, Sundays & Parish Events 916-907-4236

Altar Linen & Flowers Society **Tomoko McDonough**
Adult women, Third Saturday mcdonoughmommy6@gmail

Church Flowers..... **Hannah Fauci**
Friday or Saturday 323-590-8003

Church Cleaning..... **Eli Gonzalez**
Wednesday 916-395-7408

Collection Count Crew **Kelly Manstch**
Monday Parish Office 916-451-5114

Brown Bag Lunch Program..... **Maureen Olguin**
Sunday jmolguin5960@att.net

The Gabriel Project..... **Catarina Hinojos**
On call..... 415-286-6228

Senior's Lunch (55+)..... **Janice Marston**
Third Thursday 916-459-9056

Coffee & Donuts..... **Nicole**
Sunday mrs99@pm.me

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

**Fr. Jacob Kasak, FSSP; Riley Silva (OLGS seminarian);
 Sr. MaryAnne Regina, CM; Sr. Maria Dolorosa, FLM;
 Sr. Leonie, OSB; Sr. Rebekah Kasak (OSB)**

*Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is
 restless until it finds its rest in thee.*

PASTOR'S COLUMN

OUR LADY AS CO-REDEMPTRIX

On November 4 (last Tuesday), the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith promulgated *Mater Populi Fidelis*, that is, *Doctrinal Note on Some Marian Titles Regarding Mary's Cooperation in the Work of Salvation*. As is often the case, rumors preceded its promulgation.

In the first place, I remind you that I am not the Magisterium of the Church. Nor am I a bishop; nor am I an accomplished theologian. I have been a Protestant – I reject the Protestant premise in principle, I adjure its errors, and I have no intention to make myself the arbiter of Catholic truth. Therefore, what follows is neither *apologia* nor criticism; it is the furthest thing from a so-called *filial correction*; it is the reaction of a simple parish priest, offered not in a spirit of polemics, but out of genuine pastoral concern for the faithful, anticipating their confusion and consternation.

In the first place, I appreciated the document's exposition of the origin and history of certain Marian titles. It was enlightening to see *when* and *why* certain titles were accorded to Our Lady, and how the Church historically explained their use. However, I found a number of points in the document confusing, especially in the section titled *Co-redemptrix*.

This title has a long and esteemed pedigree. It is found going back to at least the tenth century, under the simpler *Redemptrix*. Some centuries later, popular usage revised this to *Co-redemptrix*, in order to make more clear the truth of Our Lady's position in the hierarchy of the redemptive activity of Our Lord. It is *his* activity, by means of the Paschal mystery, and *his* grace, which is primary and necessary. By his dispositive will, he *chooses* to include his creatures in his own redemptive work. Their participation in this work always remains secondary and, as the document states, "expansive."

For the most part, the document contents itself to explaining the history and doctrine of certain Marian titles that have been popularized by the devotion of the faithful and reinforced by the consistent use of the Magisterium. However, at several points it departs from the strictly *doctrinal* and into the *prudential* and *pastoral*, and it seems that these are the areas that are giving rise to confusion.

I should note that the impetus for the document does not seem to lie with any lack of doctrinal clarity in the historical usage of such titles, but rather with their promotion (without nuance or theological precision) by several large, popular movements, often associated with unapproved and dubious Marian apparitions. They include: *Vox Populi Mariae Mediatrici*, the Marian Movement of Priests, devotees of the so-called "Lady of All Nations" apparitions, the Countdown to the Kingdom Network, and promoters of Medjugorje. I had been unaware of these movements and I am grateful to Fr. Franco who has done extensive research in this sphere.

I further note that the document sets strict limits for itself in its prudential admonitions. In the opening paragraphs, we read, "The piety of the faithful People of God — who find in Mary refuge, strength, tenderness, and hope — *is not contemplated here to correct it* but, above all, to appreciate, admire, and encourage it." And again, "*Rather than proposing limits*, the present *Note* seeks to accompany and sustain the love of Mary and trust in her maternal intercession" (*emphases mine*).

Returning to the title of *Co-redemptrix* in particular, the document concludes, "Given the necessity of explaining Mary's subordinate role in the work of Redemption, *it would not be appropriate* to use the title 'Co-redemptrix' to define Mary's cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ's unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith, for 'there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other

name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved' (*Acts* 4:12). When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*" (#22, *emphases in original*).

Here is my point of confusion: this is a *prudential* judgment, put forward in the midst of a *doctrinal* document. However, the document does not seem to make this distinction clear. Furthermore, this judgment does not seem to be consistent with the limits set by the document itself earlier in its own opening paragraphs. Finally, terms like "inappropriate" or "inadmissible" lack theological precision and create moral questions regarding our responsibility to them.

As a parish priest that regularly engages with the faithful, with potential converts, and with people in the world, this title would not seem to require "many, repeated explanations." In any case, the Scriptures themselves often require explanation, sometimes on this very issue (the subordinate and participatory activity of creatures in the redemptive work of Christ). One example that leaps to mind is from St. Paul's *Letter to the Colossians*, in which he states, "In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions." In my experience, the title *Co-redemptrix* has often provides rich ground to explore with the faithful the paternal solicitude of Almighty God, who, as any good father, wishes to include his children in his work. Understood correctly, we all *co-redeem* with Christ, just as we shall *co-reign* with Christ (cf. 1 Tim 2:12) and *co-judge* with Christ (1 Cor 6:3). Mary, given her singular holiness and her unique relationship to the Incarnate Lord, simply participates in these roles in a preeminent way, differing from Our Lord always *in kind*, but from us *in degree*.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 27	Thanksgiving: modified Mass schedule
Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival
Dec 13	Rorate Mass
Jan 3	Christmas Party
Jan 4	First Holy Communion registrations due
Jan 11	First Holy Communion catechism begins
Mar 2-6	Lenten Mission: Fr. Joel Pinto, FSSP
May 9	Italian Dinner
Jun 14-20	2026, Camp Sacred Heart
Jun 20-26	2026, Camp Immaculate Heart

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday

Second Collection for the Archdiocese of the Military Services.

First Holy Communion registrations are available in the bookstore. *Registration deadline is Sun, Jan 4*. Classes will begin on Sun, Jan 11.

This Week

Chesterton Society meets on Tues, Nov 11, at 7 pm.

Youth Group meets on Fri, Nov 14, at 7 pm.

The **Altar Guild** meets on Sat, Nov 15.

Looking Ahead

Mass schedule on Thanksgiving: 7 am, 8:30 am, noon.



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