

Baptism of the Lord

TODAY'S MESSAGE

OUR BAPTISM IS A CALL TO SERVE

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, leads many to ponder: Why Jesus was baptized? If He was God's only Son, without sin, why did he want or need to be baptized? I believe that Jesus asked John to baptize him as both a sign that he was human like us and also as an example for us to follow. He was God's chosen One, and He gave himself over to His Father's will as His servant.

We follow Jesus both in our own baptism and in the giving of ourselves to God in service because we are also God's chosen ones. We serve God in many ways. Some tend to the sick and homebound. Some work with teens to help them understand and know God better. Others do good works with the poor and those less fortunate. Others work for justice.

At Mass, we serve God and one another by being liturgical ministers, assisting others to enjoy a prayerful experience every time we gather for the Eucharist. In our service, we strive for "full, active, and conscious worship," so that we can find the peace and strength to live out God's plan in our every day lives. I am ever grateful for the support and help of our many liturgical ministers who receive a special blessing today for all they do to make our Sunday Eucharist a holy and sacred time. — *Nora Lundin, Liturgy Coordinator*

INTRODUCING FATHER PETER SEIMAS

Fr. Peter is one of the priests who will be assisting our parish by presiding at our liturgies while Fr. Thierry is on leave. Here's a little bit about Fr. Peter:

Rev. Peter Seimas was born in Campbell, California. He received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration Management from San José State University, SJSU. He received his first Master's Degree from St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park and was ordained on May 18th 2002. Fr. Peter was an associate pastor at St. Mary Parish, Gilroy, and Resurrection Parish, Sunnyvale. He currently is an associate pastor at St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish. He is also in charge of the Catholic Chaplaincy Ministry at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara. In addition to parish ministry and hospital chaplaincy work, Father Peter recently received his second Master's Degree with honors from the University of San Francisco, USF, with a major in Psychology/ Marriage and Family Therapy.



Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — *Nicholas Humy, Betty Hofsetter, Msgr. William Lenane, Fr. Thierry Geris, Frank Briggs Sr., Susan Gerlach, Tom Halderman, Diane Zscheile, Kelly Vitorino, Betty Schauer, Quirico Japlip, Mary Agnes Early*

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — *Bobby Kerrigan, James Ablar, Renato Gregorio, Bob McNulty, Reid Scott, Lina Dirlik, Barbara Smith, Peter Bisacca*

Pray For Lists guidelines: • Have permission from the person to be listed. • Go through the Pastoral Home Ministry to list the names. • Names will be on the list for 3 months and then be removed. • Can request names to be continued after 3 months. *Contact the Pastoral Home Ministry 650-494-2496 x22 or fongmt@hotmail.com*

Please note our email address:
bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DUE
Jan 23 . . . **Thu** Jan 13 noon
Jan 30 . . . **Thu** Jan 20 noon



Our Weekly Offering

December 19 \$ 11,797.14
St. Vincent de Paul \$ 5,951.00
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD. . . \$ 246,442.58
Budget YTD . . \$ 250,181.91
Variance - 1.49%

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 9:

8:45 am STA. . . . Richard Fausett †
10:30 am OLR . . . Ralph William
Richardson Jr. †

*Readings: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38;
Mt 3:13-17*

Monday, January 10:

12:15 am STA. . . James & Edith Dubbs †
Readings: Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday, January 11:

Readings: Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 12:

8:30 am OLR . . . Angelo Barachi †
Readings: Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday, January 13: St. Hilary

12:15 am STA. . . Charles Barachi †
Readings: Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45

Friday, January 14:

Readings: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday, January 15: Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Many, many thanks to all the wonderful generous parishioners who donated gifts for the children in East Palo Alto. We're sure there were many joyful children on Christmas morning because of your thoughtfulness.

— *Ruth & George Chippendale*

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Jan 15 & 16, 2010

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Seimas
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Stanley
Sun 11:00 am Fr. Hernandez

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester
Sun 8:45 am Fr. Brown
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Stanley
Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am Fr. Gammad
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Rubio

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 9: The Baptism of the Lord;
National Vocation Awareness Week
9:15, 10:15 am ... Rel. Ed. (SESA/ISP)
11:30 am Byzantines (SAGH)
3:00 pm Godspell Tryouts (SAGH)
6:00 pm Youth Mass Dinner (OLRH)

Monday, January 10:
7:00 pm Sp. Catechist Ministry (PC)
7:30 pm RCIA (PC)

Tuesday, January 11:
6:00 pm Cell Tower Comm. (SESA)
7:00 pm Spirituality Tuesday with
Deacon Daniel (SAGH)
7:00 pm Sp. Prayer Group (OLRH)
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus (OLRH)

Wednesday, January 12:
7:00 pm PSC (OLRH)

Thursday, January 13:
10:00 am Seton Dev. Board (SAGH)
7:00 pm Taize Prayer (SAG)

Friday, January 14:
12:00 pm Rel. Ed. Board (PC)
7:00 pm Sp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, January 15:
5:00 pm RCIA Rite of Welcoming
(SAG)

TAIZÉ PRAYER AND SONG

Our parish community is encouraged to attend a series of Taizé prayer evenings. Taizé prayer uses repetitive, meditative singing and prayers to promote a sense of peace and leads naturally to contemplative prayer. Please join us Thur, Jan 13, St. Albert the Great, 7:00 p.m. These prayer sessions will continue at Our Lady of the Rosary beginning in February 2011. Read more on Taizé at www.taize.fr/en

SAVE THE DATE!

The Parish Volunteer Event will be on Saturday, February 12 at 2 pm. at St. Albert the Great. All volunteers in any capacity are invited. Be on the look out for additional info in mid-January.

GODSPELL TRYOUTS

Parents, take this opportunity for your children to get on-stage theatre experience! Invite them to come to try-outs for "GODSPELL," the hit Broadway musical, which will be a highlight of the 50th Anniversary of Saint Albert the Great Celebration. Try-outs are open to all youth in the parish and Saint Elizabeth Seton School, from 5th grade through High School to be held January 9 at 3pm, at Saint Albert's. For information call Pat Briggs, Director, 650 856-0460 or email maryjerry@sbglobal.net.

BLESSING OF MINISTERS

This weekend, January 8 & 9th, we will be blessing and commissioning Liturgical Ministers at all Masses. We appreciate all the time and effort our volunteers give to make our liturgies meaningful and prayerful.

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAY

Tuesday, January 11: Scripture and Faith Sharing; Deacon Daniel. Why did God become man? Deacon Daniel will open the scriptures revealing the thread of salvation as God came first to the "chosen ones; the lost sheep of Israel" and also for the world. Bring your questions and your bible. Join us for an evening of faith sharing and community.

RITE OF WELCOMING FOR RCIA CANDIDATES

Next SATURDAY at the 5pm Mass at St. Albert the Great three RCIA candidates will celebrate The Rite of Welcoming. This rite welcomes baptized but uncatechized adults who are seeking to complete their Christian initiation through the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist or to be Received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. Alex Nguyen is seeking Confirmation. Victoria Liu and Judy Decker are being Received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

These three are already part of our community because they have been marked by Baptism. Now during this Rite, the Church surrounds them with prayers and ritual gestures as they prepare to be sealed with the gift of the Spirit in Confirmation and to join us at the banquet table of Christ. Father Matt will welcome the three candidates and speak to them, their sponsors and to all present. He will point out the joy and happiness of the community of St. Thomas Aquinas now that Alex, Victoria and Judy are taking the next step of their spiritual journey.

CELEBRATION OF DEACON CARL BUNJE'S MINISTRY

The parish will celebrate Deacon Carl Bunje's many years of service to the parish as Deacon at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday mass at St. Albert the Great on January 22. All parishioners are encouraged to attend to thank Deacon Carl for his years of ministry. Fr. Matt will preside at Mass that evening. There will be a reception afterwards in the Hospitality Center. (Some early advertising specified another date, but January 22 is the correct date.)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THANKS YOU

Members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Conference of St. Vincent de Paul wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the parish for the very generous donations the Society received this month. In addition to the parish donations, the Society also gratefully received a very substantial individual donation.

January 9, 2011

POVERTY IN AMERICA AWARENESS MONTH

Today, 37.3 million Americans—and 1 in 6 children (that's 18 percent of all American children)—are living below the poverty line. They live in families who are of necessity making hard choices between food, health care, heat and rent. To bring attention to this national crisis, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has designated January as "Poverty in America Awareness Month."

Poverty USA: The State of Poverty in America

The official poverty rate in 2009 was 14.3 percent — up from 13.2 percent in 2008. This was the second statistically significant annual increase in the poverty rate since 2004. In 2009, 43.6 million people were in poverty, up from 39.8 million in 2008 — the third consecutive annual increase in the number of people in poverty. Between 2000-2008, the number of poor Americans grew by more than nine million.

The number of people living in extreme poverty, that is, those with incomes below half the poverty line, rose to over 17 million people. That is the highest level on record since data first became available in 1975.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division: 2008

STAYOUTH

The next youth and family Mass will be on Sunday, January 9 at 6 pm. All families are invited; especially those who have middle school and high school aged students. Dinner will be provided for the youth at 7:00 pm, followed by programming at 7:30 pm—this month's programming will be adoration with praise and worship music. You won't want to miss it!

There is no STAY session on Sunday, January 16.

The next STAY Friday Night Lights event will be on Friday, January 21 from 6 until 10 pm at SAG Hall. All middle school and high school students are invited to check it out! The FNL program was recently in the Palo Alto Weekly—check it out: www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/story.php?story_id=13948

On January 23, our evening kicks off with STAY TUNED, a music jam session from 6:30 until 7 pm—all are invited. Both the middle school and high school sessions will meet at 7 pm until 8:30 pm. The high schoolers will continue to view videos and have small group discussions—the topic for the 23rd is morality. The middle school Edge program will be looking at Jesus—God the Son.

January 28-30 brings the Confirmation and high school retreat. To be held in Scotts Valley, this retreat is in conjunction with several other parishes in our Deanery. Please contact Chris Miller at stayouth@paloaltocatholic.org if you wish to attend.