

Fifth Sunday of Lent

TODAY'S MESSAGE

WHAT IS "CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY"? — It is very challenging for every Christian to explore the definition of spirituality. When we talk about spirituality there is always an ambiguity and complexity in defining it. Spirituality is difficult to define probably because everyone has a different experience and relationship with God. Some people find spirituality something very personal and they would rather keep it to themselves. However, some people feel comfortable articulating their understanding and experience of their relationship with God. Although there are many attempts to define it, still we do not have a standard definition.

According to Bradly Holt, the term spirituality was first used among Christians. In fact the word "spirit" comes from the Latin spiritus, which means "breath." Moreover, the Hebrew word ruah signifies both "breath" and "spirit." In Israel's understanding, God acts in and through the Spirit to bring forth life and sustain all that is. Indeed, for Christians, the Spirit of God is the Spirit in and of Christ. Thus, Christian spirituality is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ and can be found in His very own words and deeds. Jesus' life and teaching, death and resurrection, left a tremendous impact on the life of His followers. And further, His followers continue to experience His ongoing and challenging presence.

The experience of the early Church Fathers was very significant in understanding Christian spirituality. The controversies, external hostility and conflicts that they were experiencing, affected their attitude. In these periods of time, common themes in Christian spirituality developed. There was a profound Christ-centered devotion, which was evident in all the writings of early Church Fathers, ascetical practices, and a deep sense of trust in the mercy of God. Communal worship was seen as basic to spirituality. Indeed, the experiences and relationship of the early Christians with Jesus shaped our understanding of Christian spirituality.

Fr. Randy, Parochial Vicar

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 10:

8:45 am STA . . . Vince Giovannotto †
 10:30 am OLR . . William Alhouse †
 10:30 am STA . . Ethel Hagan †
*Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:8-11;
 Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]*

Monday, April 11: St. Stanislaus

12:15 pm STA . . Eileen Butler †
Readings: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41C-62]; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday, April 12:

12:15 pm STA . . Irene Butler
 (special intention)
Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday, April 13: St. Martin I

12:15 pm STA . . James & Edith Dubbs †
Readings: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, April 14:

Readings: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday, April 15:

Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, April 16:

12:15 pm STA . . Pope Benedict XVI
 (special intention)
 5:00 pm SAG . . . Robert Gaspich †
Readings: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Apr 16 & 17, 2011

St. Albert the Great
 Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Valenton
 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. Marini
 Sun 10:30 am Fr. Valenton
 Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary
 Sun 9:00 am Fr. Gammad
 Sun 10:30 am Fr. Seimas

CATHOLIC RELIEF COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY

This collection supports six Catholic agencies benefiting millions of vulnerable, displaced, and impoverished families and individuals around the world. From direct humanitarian service to helping victims of human trafficking and working to reunify families, the funds from the collection make a real difference in lives across the globe.

Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Nicholas Humy, Msgr. William Lenane, Fr. Thierry Geris, Diane Zscheile, Kelly Vitorino, Quirico Japlit, Rev. John Butcher, Juliana Crozier, Mary Lee Hagen, Sr. Jeannette Donnelly, Tom Mulcahy

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Betty Schauer, Edna Kansora, Betty Hofstetter, Patricia Jacobsen, Gerald Kosmala, Sybil Ann Pfluke, Jerry Martin, Ursula Esteotto, Margaret Grace Shea, Peter Koperski, Rita Perko, Hal Partelow, Annie Wen

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
 Apr 24 . . **Wed** Apr 13 noon
 May 1 . . . **Thu** Apr 21 noon



Our Weekly Offering

March 6 \$ 10,980.89
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD . . \$ 352,340.58
 Budget YTD . . \$ 362,845.87
 Variance - 2.90%

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, April 10: Fifth Sunday of Lent
8:30 am Hospitality Sundays
(OLRH)
11:30 am Byzantines (SAGH)

Monday, April 11:
7:00 pm Merton Liturgy Comm
(Thomas House)
7:00 pm Sp. Catechist Mtg. (PC)

Tuesday, April 12:

Wednesday, April 13:
3:00 pm Reception (SESA)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:00 pm PSC (OLRH)

Thursday, April 14:
8:00 am Retreat (DC)
10:00 am Seton Dev Board (SAGH)
7:00 pm TMC (SAGH)

Friday, April 15: Income Tax Day; Abstinence
11:00 am R.R. Center (SESS)
7:00 pm Sp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, April 16:
8:00 am Environment (OLR)
9:00 am RCIA Retreat (SAGH)

NEW PIANO NEEDED

The piano at St. Thomas Aquinas Church is in need of replacement. The instrument is no longer suitable for the many funerals and weddings celebrated at that church. Its tone and tuneability are no longer sufficient for liturgical celebrations (but it might do quite well in the renovated Thomas House!).

We would like to obtain a new piano for the church. Anyone interested in donating monies towards the purchase of a new piano should contact Nora Lundin (parish Liturgy, Wedding and Funeral Coordinator) at liturgy@paloaltocatholic.org or Chuck Tully in the Pastoral Center (business@paloaltocatholic.org).

FINAL SPIRITUALITY TUESDAY SESSION: TUESDAY, MAY 3

Please save Tuesday, May 3 for our final Spirituality Tuesday Assembly Mexican Fiesta potluck and annual wrap-up. We will enjoy our company and a pot-luck meal, perhaps a few traditional libations, review our sessions this year and discuss ideas for next year's program. All are welcome. Watch for coming details.

UPDATE FROM FR. THIERRY

Dear Friends, I ask you to keep me in your prayers as I am preparing to receive another chemotherapy treatment tomorrow. I am scheduled for another one again on May 6. At some point in the near future, I will receive another CT scan to determine the effectiveness of these treatments.

Over the last month, I have spent time outdoors and gotten some exercise, and I have more strength and energy as I enter this new treatment cycle.

My voice has not improved of its own yet. As a temporary measure, I received an injection in the vocal cord that is paralyzed, to add bulk to it. It allows me to make more sound than I do by whispering. A possible permanent treatment will have to wait for a while longer, to give my voice a chance to recover of its own.

I have been blessed to be invited to participate in a pilgrimage to Lourdes organized by the Knights of Malta, right after Easter. I was there earlier as a healthy person and did not expect to come back as a "malade" – not so soon, at least – but this is the place where I am called to be now, and I look forward to this opportunity for spiritual and physical healing.

God bless, *Fr. Thierry*

PRAYER SHAWL SPRING COFFEE

Welcome all knitters and crocheters! Come join us for coffee and munchies at 10 am Saturday, April 30 at the condo home of Judi Swope, #207, 707 Bryant, Palo Alto. We will share ideas and experiences for our growing Prayer Shawl Ministry which has already provided 26 (or more) handmade prayer shawls to people during the most difficult times in their lives.

The prayer shawl is a simple symbol of God's love created by you in your spare time. It is handmade with many prayers, given a priest's blessing and brought to someone in special need of warmth, prayers and love. Please call Terry 650-714-2131. We look forward to seeing you.

2011 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

"Our Parish – Our Diocese – Together in Christ" Report #9 —
ADA Goal: \$120,000; Pledged: \$121,326 * Pledges: 302; 101% of Goal

Thank you to those who continue to pledge beyond our ADA goal. Anything raised above our ADA goal will directly benefit St. Thomas Aquinas and our always plentiful un-budgeted repairs to our buildings and grounds: Dermody Center needs some work; carpet for St. Albert the Great Church; new altar server robes for Our Lady of the Rosary; furnishings for the Thomas House...to name just a few.

April 10, 2011

LAST YEAR OUR CO2 ADMISSIONS TOOK A DIVE!

Our Green and Building and Maintenance Committees set a goal in 2010 to reduce our parish CO2 emissions by 5%. We over-achieved and scored a 12.5% reduction! The task was already in progress, but Chuck Tully and our maintenance staff gave a big nudge to the work of installing more compact fluorescent light fixtures, LED "EXIT" signs, motion detectors and timers. We controlled our thermostats better and closed church doors during the winter. In detail: Electricity -19.6%, Gas -7.9%, Water -11.1% [CO2 emissions from water usage are negligible; gas is the biggie.]

Our reduction efforts continue, but reductions will be harder to come by, now that we've picked the low-hanging fruit. This year we're looking at pre-set thermostat controls and timers, insulation, double-paned windows, weather-stripping and caulking. Our Building & Maintenance Committee keeps energy-saving on its agenda. (We hope you're doing the same at home.)

GRIEF RECOVERY CLASS

Once again Arlene Dean will be running a Grief Recovery Class starting APRIL 14th from 3:30 to 5:30pm at St. Simon's rectory 1860 Grant Road, Los Altos. It will run for 10 weeks. For more information call Arlene at 650-968-7556.

YOUNG ADULT CIRCLE

Young Adult Bible Study, Tues. April 12th, 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of the Rosary: The Young Adult group meets to continue its study "The Bible and the Mass". It would be an excellent time to come and join us in examining this fascinating topic.

Monthly Dinner Social, Tues. April 19th at 7:30 p.m., Crepevine, 367 University Ave, Palo Alto: The Young Adult Circle meets for its monthly social gathering. Please confirm your attendance on our Facebook group or contact Noah, noah.s.clemons@gmail.com.

Young Adult Mass, Tues. April 26th at 7:30 p.m., St. Simon Church, 1860 Grant Rd, Los Altos: The Young Adult Circle will be gathering for Mass in the Small Chapel at St. Simon Church in Los Altos. Celebrate the Eucharist with young adults (20's and 30's, single or married) from this and neighboring parishes with fellowship to follow. If you have questions or would like more information on the mass, please contact Andie, anutt@dsj.org

For more info, see our website, www.YoungAdultCircle.org, check the Facebook group "Young Adult Circle", or contact Scott at scott.a.harrison@gmail.com.