

Second Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S MESSAGE

ADVENT – OUR SPIRITUAL CHECKUP

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of Christ's coming. Our childhood memories bring to mind Advent Calendars & the surprise each day brought as we opened another window; Advent wreaths and seeing the candles lit one by one; or maybe adding a piece of straw in the empty manger in the family crèche each time we did a good deed and the wonder of seeing the baby Jesus lying on that soft bedding on Christmas morning.

Advent is also a time of wonder and awe, of preparation and reflection; a time to reflect on our relationship with Jesus, not the baby of 2000 years ago, but of the risen Christ— our relationship today, our life style, our actions, our hopes, our dreams of someday being with Him for all eternity in heaven. We all know it's our choice, that great gift of love from God called free will. We choose to be with Him through everyday choices. We choose everyday to build that relationship through personal spiritual growth, the sacraments and our daily commitment and awareness of the needs of those around us. It is our daily choice to share His love through service to others in our world.

Advent is a time that brings these things back into focus for us. Are we prepared for the coming of Jesus through our current relationship with Him? Relationships need to evolve and grow; we need to broaden the knowledge of what is expected of us. Jesus says we need to make a clear choice to love and serve Him and His people; we can't be lukewarm; we can't sit on the fence. We need to choose to continually strengthen our relationship with Him. Let us enter this splendid season of wonder and awe, of preparation and reflection as we continue to build our relationship with Christ and His people together as a community of faith.

Susan Clingingsmith, Director of Religious Education

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you for your tremendous generosity to our Thanksgiving collection. Your generosity provides our SVDP conference with some extra resources this winter to help feed the hungry, house the homeless, and help pay utilities for families struggling to make meager ends meet. We need to average an extra \$1,000 a week in order to support the blessing of a third full-time priest. We encourage

Our Weekly Offering	
Goal	\$11,000.00
November 27th	\$8,500.00
Thanksgiving	\$2,100.00

everyone to consider using the Sunday Offertory Envelopes or Online Giving as a way of giving to the Lord the "first fruits" of the "treasure" we have received. **THANK YOU FOR SHARING GOD'S GIFTS!**

Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Msgr. William Lenane,
Fr. Thierry Geris, Diane Zscheile, Sr. Jeannette Donnelly, Norman Swope, Mary Fong,
Devin Wakefield, Des Fitzgerald, Robert Kerrigan Sr., Lorraine Dabney

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Charles Hongren, Ramona Thille, Rita Botti, George Hoberg, Robert O'Connor,
Pat Prousa, Mary Louise Canfield, Nicholas Humy, Rose Siegmund, Paul Vavuris, Donna Rehder,
Venerando Baltazar, Maria Marszal, Patricia Tighe

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 4:
8:45 am STA. . . . Vince Giovannotto †
10:30 am OLR . . . Zell Cooper †
6:00 pm OLR . . . Dolores Winans †
*Readings: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14;
Mk 1:1-8*

Monday, December 5:
7:15 am STA. . . . James & Edith Dubbs †
8:30 am OLR . . . Josephine & John
Fitzgerald †
Readings: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 6: St. Nicholas
8:30 am OLR . . . Michael Cummins (sp. int.)
12:15 pm STA . . . Vuong Van Bac †
Readings: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 7: St. Ambrose
8:30 am OLR . . . Agnes Valentine †
12:15 pm STA . . . E. O, J. O, and A. Olubusola
(sp. int.)
Readings: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 8:
8:30 am OLR . . . Brian Franklin †
12:15 pm STA . . . Donna Rehder †
*Readings: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38*

Friday, December 9: St. Juan Diego
8:30 am OLR . . . Clare W. Mynderse †
Readings: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 10:
5:00 pm SAG . . . Paul Gretz †
Readings: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Dec 10 & 11, 2011

St. Albert the Great
Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Seimas
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Valenton
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. Stanley
Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary
Sun 12:00 pm Fr. Valenton
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Seimas
Sun 6:00 pm Youth Fr. Stanley

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 4: Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am STA Kids, Parents
Catechesis (OLRH/SESS)
11:30 am Byzantine Liturgy (SAGH)

Monday, December 5:

7:00 pm RCIA (PC)

Tuesday, December 6:

7:00 pm Spirituality Tues. (SAGH)
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus
(OLRH)

Wednesday, December 7:

8:00 am Seton Development (SAGH)
10:00 am Adult Spirituality Brd. (PC)
6:00 pm RCIC (PC)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)

Thursday, December 8: The Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00 am Faith Sharing (SAGH)
7:00 pm Catechesis Mtg (OLRH)
7:00 pm Centering Prayer (DC)
7:00 pm Taize Prayer (SAGH)
7:00 pm TMC (STAH)

Friday, December 9:

12:00 pm RE Board (PC)
5:00 pm Goretti Group (STAH)
6:00 pm STAYouth (DC)
7:00 pm Sp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, December 10:

8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)
9:00 am Confirmation Mtg (DC)
7:00 pm Young Adult Circle (SAGH)

ADVENT PENANCE

Advent Penance Liturgies & Confessions — Mon, Dec. 12th at 7:00pm – St. Albert the Great; Mon, Dec. 19th at 7:00pm – Our Lady of the Rosary

SVDP FOOD DRIVE

The annual SVDP Food Drive has begun in our parish. Our St. Thomas Aquinas Conference is in great need of the following food items: flip top cans of hearty soups, flip top cans of Vienna sausage, water bottles, Saltine crackers, fruit cups, granola bars, juice pouches-Capri Sun.

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAY ASSEMBLY

December 6th Key Moments in the History of the Catholic Church; Our host: Fr. Matt. Councils, Decay and Mission. The 4th century brought rapid expansion of Christianity in the Roman Empire. Everyone must be a Christian but what should they believe? Without guidance, controversies immerge. Official Councils of Bishops were called to answer challenges to what would become the orthodox beliefs of The Church. As Rome falls, the Church continues; developing a “theory of mission” in response to the invading forces. How did the turbulent times change the Church? Join Father Matt and fellow parishioners as this fascinating saga continues.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

We will gather to celebrate the Eucharist in praise of the goodness of God who preserved Mary, the Mother of Jesus, from Original Sin at the first moment of her conception. Our Mass schedule for the day is as follows: Wednesday, December 7th (Vigil) at 7:00pm (STA) & Thursday, December 8th at 7:15am, 12:15pm, 8:00pm (STA); 8:30am & 7:00pm Spanish (OLR); 10:00am & 7:00pm (SAG).

PASTORAL HOME MINISTRY

Pastoral Home Ministry offers spiritual and social support for the sick and homebound parishioners of all ages. Among the services we provide are:

- Bring communion to individuals
- Provide communion services to groups at retirement and nursing homes.
- Help arrange transportation to Mass.
- Read or write letters and do other small errands.
- Maintain Prayer Circle pray for lists

We have information on Avenidas, the Senior Center with its many programs, courses and services; the Palo Alto Center for the Blind; Outreach transportation services and Kara Grief Counseling services.

If you know of anyone who is elderly or has to be homebound for any reason contact the Pastoral Home Ministry at the Pastoral Center and leave a message. We will respond as quickly as possible. Contact Pat Dietrich or Mary Fong at (650) 494-2496 X22.

TAIZE SERVICE

TAIZE PRAYER RETURNS TO OUR PARISH FOR ADVENT-December 1st — The Season of Advent is full of anticipation and hope. It is a time of spiritual preparation before the celebration of the birth of our Lord. It is also a “hustle-bustle” time in our secular lives. Taize is an opportunity take a few moments for yourself and for your soul.

Taize uses the psalms, scripture, songs and silence. It uses music, chants, prayer and meditation to promote a sense of inner peace. The Taize music, songs and chants, are simple to learn and sing. This form of prayer service originated in the small town of Taize, France in 1940 and is ecumenical in origin. Learn more at our introductory pre-session at SAG Hospitality Room; 7 pm Thursday, December 1st; Taize service to follow in Saint Albert the Great Church. Please join us! Fr. Randy says: “Bring a friend for a person encounter with Jesus”. Thursday s evenings: December 1st and December 15th at 7 pm at Saint Albert the Great Church

December 4, 2011

WINTER COAT AND BLANKET COLLECTION NEWS

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the winter coat and blanket collection. Over 79 coats, 20 blankets and a small assortment of clothing were received. Many people seeking assistance at The Opportunity Center in Palo Alto and The Shelter Network in San Mateo will be warmer this winter because of you. Merry Christmas! The Human Concerns Committee of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.

THANK YOU FROM MARY FONG

I would like to thank the members of our Parish community for your outpouring of support, love and concern for me during these last few months. I was able to stay strong during the rough periods of my lung surgery and the subsequent chemotherapy sessions because of all your well wishes, beautiful cards, prayers, mass intentions and offers of help. I am very fortunate to be part of this caring community.

I have now finished with all the medical treatments they can give me at this stage. My future progress will be monitored by regular 6 month CT scans. Please continue to keep me in your prayers in the coming years so that I can remain cancer free.

I have resumed most of my regular activities the last two weeks. Looking forward to seeing most of you in various Church functions.

FLAMINGOS

"Give the gift of pink"

"Pink, the perfect fall color!"

"Flamingoes lay golden-pinkish eggs for STAYouth Program"

Incase you haven't heard our High School program has started a new fundraiser – FLAMINGO-ing.

\$20 – 10 flamingos and party signs in a friends lawn for 48 hours

\$10 – those who have been flamingo'd can pay for an early 'pick up' of their visiting flamingos (who otherwise would be there for 48 hours)

\$30 – buys you insurance to not get flamingo'd

*proceeds will go to teen programming & retreats

WE STILL NEED TO RAISE \$1000+ We are half way there!!!!

Email Alley @ awhite@dsj.org if you would like to flamingo a friend. Please include your name and phone number, the address and name of the family which will be getting FLAMINGO'd, & a clue to leave for the family so they know who to call and thank.