

Third Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S MESSAGE

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? — Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday in Advent – midpoint in our journey of waiting and anticipating our Lord's birth and His return to our world as He promised. The word Gaudete means "Rejoice" and is taken from the Introit of this Sunday's Mass. It's from Philippians 4:4,5: "Gaudete in Domino semper" or "Rejoice in the Lord always".

Wonder why the priest wears a rose chasuble instead of the violet that you see them in on other days of Advent? As we spend Advent in penance and preparation, much like during Lent, the rose color reminds us of the joy coming, a little lightening of the mood as it were. Rose, being a little lighter than the violet, points to the light that is coming, giving us renewed hope and joy in our redemption during this season.

In some ways I can compare Advent, a season of waiting and preparation, with knitting. I know that sounds far-fetched, but each stitch I make in a garment and each row in that garment takes time. Knitting is a process, and sitting there with my knitting in my lap, I can enjoy the people around me while I contemplate each stitch I am weaving into something. I must be patient and wait for the end product. Each stitch builds upon the next one until finally I can put the pieces together and see the final result. It can't be rushed – time must be spent. In the end, it's a work of art, and I derive immense satisfaction in the journey to the end, painstakingly through each stitch. Knitting is almost meditative for me. As I work each pattern into the garment, I think about all the parts of my life that have woven me into who I am at this moment my life's journey.

So you see, knitting for me is much like Advent, when we wait patiently and in anticipation for the coming of Christ. Each day of Advent we stitch our lives together in preparation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus the Christ, both at Christmas as we celebrate His birth, and also in the future coming of Him to take us to His heavenly Father. During this season of Advent, let us be mindful of those around us as we continue to prepare for the Lord's coming. — *Nora Lundin - Liturgy Coordinator*

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

John the Baptist was sent by God to witness to the coming of the Lord. We are sent too, to witness to our belief that Christ has come to witness by our everyday use of time and treasure.

Sacrificial Giving is planned, thoughtful, and proportional and it symbolizes your commitment to Christ and the Church. We encourage 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!

Our Weekly Offering	
Goal	\$11,000.00
December 4th	\$10,250.00
St. Elizabeth Seton School ..	\$2,725.00



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, Frank Briggs Sr.

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Charles Hongren, Ramona Thille, Rita Botti, George Hoberg, Robert O'Connor,
Pat Prausa, Mary Louise Canfield, Nicholas Humy, Rose Siegmund, Paul Vavuris, Donna Rehder,
Venerando Baltazar, Maria Marszal, Patricia Tighe, Fr. Raymond Maher, Vera Leung, Lawrence Barrett Jr.

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 11:

10:30 am OLR .. Richard F. Kelly †

Readings: *Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28*

Monday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 am OLR ... Larry Toole †

12:15 pm STA .. Mary Baracchi †

Readings: *Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47*

Tuesday, December 13: St. Lucy

12:15 pm STA .. Vuong Van Bac †

Readings: *Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32*

Wednesday, December 14: St. John of the Cross

12:15 pm STA .. All Souls †

Readings: *Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23*

Thursday, December 15:

12:15 pm STA .. Giuseppa Pennisi †

Readings: *Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30*

Friday, December 16:

8:30 am OLR ... Mary Heckler †

Readings: *Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36*

Saturday, December 17:

5:00 pm SAG ... Pat Tighe †

Readings: *Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17*

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Dec 17 & 18, 2011

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Stanley

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. Seimas

Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am Fr. Gammad

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Valenton

Sun 6:00 pm Youth Fr. Seimas

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 11: Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am STA Kids, Parents
Catechesis (OLRH/SESS)
10:00 am SAG Site Meet. (SAGH)
11:30 am Byzantine Liturgy (SAGH)
3:00 pm SAG Women's Grp. (SAGH)

Monday, December 12:

7:00 pm Sp. Catechist Meeting (PC)
7:00 pm TMC (TH)
7:45 pm RCIA Party (SAGH)

Tuesday, December 13:

6:00 pm Sp. Baptismal Class (PC)
7:00 pm Knight of Columbus
(OLRH)
7:00 pm Spirituality Tues. (SAGH)

Wednesday, December 14:

6:00 pm RCIC (PC)

Thursday, December 15:

10:00 am Faith Sharing (SAGH)
12:00 pm Ignatian Spirituality (STAH)
5:30 pm STAYouth (DC)
7:00 pm Comm. Board (DC)
7:00 pm Taize Prayer (SAG)
8:00 pm Centering Prayer Party
(OLRH)

Friday, December 16:

7:00 pm Sp. Young Adults Posada
(OLRH)

Saturday, December 17:

8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)

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 13th: The Origins of Our Christmas Symbols and Traditions; Speaker Father: Don Allen — The days are short; darkness falls earlier and there is the smell of wood burning in fireplaces all over town. Christmas is only a few weeks away. It is a happy time as we look forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord. It is a special time filled with Church and family traditions. Do you wonder about the origin of some of these? Why do we celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th? When was Jesus born and where? What about Santa Claus, Christmas trees and Christmas cards; what are their origins? Join Father Don Allen for an evening of answers. Hot apple cider will be served.

TAIZE PRAYER DECEMBER 15TH

Enter the quiet. Go deep and be restored in GOD, together with LOVE. Come for the sake of love. Come in the hope of peace. Come bring your life. Here is the beauty of holiness. 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 to take a few moments for yourself and for your soul. Invite a friend. Please join us at 7 pm, Thursday, December 15th in Saint Albert the Great Church.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & FLOWERS

We need your help in making our churches look beautiful for the holidays. Won't you consider making a donation toward a poinsettia plant in remembrance of a loved one or just as a gift from you? Special Christmas Flower Envelopes are available in the pews. All of your gifts will be greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS AT SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL, EAST PALO ALTO

Many, many thanks to all of you who helped make Thanksgiving Day a day of abundant grace for our friends in East Palo Alto. Through the efforts of Saint Vincent de Paul at Saint Frances of Assisi Church, two hundred and twenty families received boxes overflowing with non perishable food, fresh vegetables, a turkey, eggs and bread. Our Youth group and other members of the Parish volunteered to pack and deliver the boxes to these families. Thank you, thank you for your support.

In this season of Advent we again ask you to assist in creating a joy-filled Christmas for these and other families. The Giving Tree in each Church has tags of suggested gifts appropriate for children of all ages. One hundred more families will be helped at Christmas, approximately 320 families. Please help us provide gifts for these families. Purchases should be placed under the tree UNWRAPPED until December 18th. Gift certificates including movie passes are appreciated by teenagers. Financial assistance is also welcomed. Please send checks to Saint Frances of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, 94303 @ Saint Vincent de Paul.

Food boxes with hams and other provisions will be packed Friday, December 16th from 6 to 9 pm. in Saint Frances Church Hall, delivery will be on Saturday between 10 and 1 p.m. Christmas presents will be sorted, packed and delivered Wednesday December 21 to Friday, December 23rd from 1 to 5 p.m. at the small school at the far end of the Saint Frances parking lot. Volunteers are needed, especially for the sorting, packing and delivering of gifts Ann Idzik, Home: (650) 493-7350, Cell: (650) 906-8211

December 11, 2011

RCIA

DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? DO YOUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS WANT TO BE CONFIRMED? If the answer to either of these questions is "Yes" then please encourage them to call and make an appointment with Jean at 650-494-2496 X34. Adults already-baptized in other Christian traditions who are interested in Catholicism are also candidates for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

Help bring people to the Way of Jesus. With our own baptism comes the grace of the Holy Spirit that gives us the courage to be evangelists and help lead others to Christ. Often it only takes asking: "Have you thought about becoming Catholic?" or, "Have you ever considered completing your Initiation Sacraments?" Do not be shy. Be bold in the vineyard of the Lord.

VITA – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Help local low-income workers prepare and file their tax returns on Saturday mornings next tax season through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program administered by Catholic Charities. Training for the IRS certification is on-line or at classes in November and December. Contact Catholic Charities at 408 325-5220 or taxezvolunteer@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org. For information about our local team, contact our site coordinator, Paul Chestnut, 650-493-8237.

AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR PARISH

For many years our Catholic parishes & schools have benefited from the charitable gifts of appreciated property from nay good and generous people. Year-end giving becomes an important consideration for many people in these last weeks of the year 2011. The knowledge that your gifts is assisting and advancing the mission of the Catholic Church can bring about tremendous good in our world. If you are able to make a gift of appreciated stock, property, or cash, while reducing your tax liability, please contact Chuck Tully (ctully@dsj.org) or (650) 494-2496.

UPDATE ON 2011 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

St. Thomas Aquinas' ADA totals as of October 31, 2011 are:
Total pledged: \$133,271; Percentage of Goal: 111%;
Number of Donors: 351; Total Cash Received: \$126,032;
Potential Rebate: \$13,000

Please keep making your regular payments. When all our pledges have been paid, we will receive a much needed rebate to help us pay for some important improvements to our parish facilities. Thank you for your support of Bishop McGrath and our local Church.