

Fourth Sunday of Advent



TODAY'S MESSAGE

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Jesus Christ is really and truly born for us only if we are prepared to celebrate the anniversary of his birth as a moment of faith. Advent is a time for renewal of faith, and faith grows only with a deeper commitment to renounce sin. Our spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ can be accomplished through ardent offering of the Eucharistic sacrifice, personal prayer, spiritual reading and Confession. Such are the marks of our sincerity even as we string lights, wrap gifts and fight traffic in the search of the 'perfect' holiday. The 'holy day' is the best holiday.

Many around the world will pause to celebrate Christmas. Blessed are those for whom the lights, festive parties and gift-giving are only signs of the real source of abiding joy: the gift of Jesus, "he who saves his people from their sins." Prepare well for a truly merry, blessed, 'Christ-Mass'. — *Deacon Daniel Hernandez*

UPDATE FROM FR. THIERRY

Dear friends,

I received good news from the doctor yesterday: I am officially in remission. The cancer is no longer active, although not gone. It will take a few more years before I can be declared to be cured. I'll have another scan in three months from now to continue monitoring things. I am blessed to have recovered my voice and been able to return to half-time ministry. I currently serve mostly in the Mountain View area as my energy allows it. Thank God for His healing power! And thank you for your prayers – they have been heard. — *Fr. Thierry*

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you to everyone for practicing good stewardship in support of the mission and ministries of our parish. Our average weekly collection for November was \$10,350—an 8% increase vs. 2010. Our goal for Jul – Nov. Oct was \$242,000. Our actual collection for Jul – Oct is \$216,000. We are running a deficit of \$26,000. Perhaps, you are in a position to make an extra end-of-the-year gift to help us overcome this shortfall. Remember, we stated that we need to average an extra \$1,000

Our Weekly Offering	
Goal	\$11,000.00
December 11th	\$11,750.00
Immaculate Conception ...	\$1,408.00
Retired Religious	\$5,500.00

a week in order to support the blessing of a third full-time priest. 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!

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 18:

7:30 am STA.... John Pilling †

8:45 am STA.... Elaine Bond †

10:30 am OLR .. Dorothy Smidth †

10:30 am STA... Charlotte Gross (sp. int.)

6:00 am OLR ... Magdalena Cabrera (sp. int.)

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday, December 19:

8:30 am OLR ... All Souls †

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday, December 20:

8:30 am OLR ... James Kozy †

12:15 pm STA .. Ethel Ozdinski †

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 21: St. Peter Canisius

8:30 am OLR ... Agnese Cortopassi †

12:15 pm STA .. Vuong Van Bac †

Readings: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Thursday, December 22:

Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Friday, December 23: St. John of Kanty

12:15 pm STA .. Vince Giovannotto †

Readings: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Saturday, December 24:

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Dec 24 & 25, 2011

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Seimas

Sun 9:00 am Fr. Stanley

Sun 11:00 am (Byzantine) Fr. Hernandez

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sat 6:00 pm Fr. Rubio

Sun 12 midnight (Greg.). Fr. Ramelow

Sun 7:30 am..... Fr. Hester

Sun 8:45 am no Mass

Sun 10:30 am..... Fr. Seimas

Sun 12 noon (Gregorian) Fr. Ramelow

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Stanley

Sat 7:00 pm (Spanish) ... Fr. Valenton

Sun 9:00 am..... Fr. Valenton

Sun 10:30 am..... Fr. Valenton

Sun 6:00 pm no Mass



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 Horngren, Ramona Thille, 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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 am ... TMC Book Club (TH)
10:30 am ... Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (SESS/SAG)
11:30 am ... Byzantine Liturgy (SAGH)

Monday, December 19:
7:00 pm ... Confession (OLR)
7:00 pm ... TMC (TH)

Tuesday, December 20:
7:30 pm ... Human Concerns (OLRH)

Wednesday, December 21:
10:00 am ... Adult Spirituality Bd. (PC)
6:00 pm ... SOUP (PC)
7:30 pm ... Latin Class (TH)

Thursday, December 22:
10:00 am ... Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (OLR)
10:00 am ... Faith Sharing (SAGH)
12:00 pm ... Ignatian Spirituality (STAH)
5:30 pm ... STAYouth (DC)

Friday, December 23:
7:00 pm ... Sp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, December 24: The Vigil of Christmas
8:00 am ... Environment Team (OLR)

ADVENT PENANCE

Advent Penance Liturgies & Confessions — Mon, Dec. 19th at 7:00pm — Our Lady of the Rosary

STANFORD HOSPITAL CELEBRATES

All are invited to the Christmas Celebration at Stanford Hospital on Monday Dec. 19 at 4pm. The event will take place in the Atrium on the ground floor around the giant Christmas Tree! We will sing songs, have refreshments and share good cheer. Please join patients, staff, families and visitors as we celebrate our Lord's birth! Questions? Call Gina Craig at 724-3054.

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

5:00 pm Family Mass – Our Lady of the Rosary
(Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass)
5:00 pm Family Mass – St. Albert the Great
(Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass)
6:00 pm – St. Thomas Aquinas
7:00 pm – Our Lady of the Rosary *(Spanish)*
12:00 am Midnight Mass – St. Thomas Aquinas *(Gregorian)*

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

7:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas
9:00 am – St. Albert the Great
9:00 am – Our Lady of the Rosary *(Spanish)*
10:30 am – Our Lady of the Rosary
10:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas
12:00 noon – St. Thomas Aquinas *(Gregorian)*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

5:00 pm – St. Albert the Great

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST

7:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas
8:45 am – St. Thomas Aquinas
9:00 am – Our Lady of the Rosary *(Spanish)*
9:00 am – St. Albert the Great
10:30 am – Our Lady of the Rosary
10:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas
12:00 noon – St. Thomas Aquinas *(Gregorian)*

EPIPHANY – JANUARY 7TH – 8TH

Regular Weekend Mass schedule



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Christmas can engender many thoughts: thoughts of love, redemption, renewal, reconciliation, joy, hope, fulfillment, light in the darkness, generosity, goodwill, guidance. The fourth grade catechism class started a new project. They were asked to help bag the spoons and napkins to be put in the food bags for the homeless. They tackled the project with great enthusiasm, each child trying to work faster than the next. After finishing the job one little girl exclaimed "I'm going to make cookies to put in the food bags." Her face was beaming with the joy of giving to others. As you go about your holiday tasks, picture the little girl in her joyous exuberance of giving, and channel this healing emotion within yourself. The giving tree has been set up in our churches. Take a tag or two and brighten the life of someone less fortunate than you. — St. Thomas Aquinas Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

December 18, 2011

GREEN CORNER

With the cold weather here, we request everyone's assistance in keeping the inner and outer sanctuary doors closed while the heaters are on. Last year we reduced our overall CO₂ emissions by 12.5% and keeping the doors closed in winter was a big help.

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.

THANK YOU TO THE GENEROUS PARISHIONERS

The members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul express their most heart felt gratitude to the parishioners who very generously gave to our parish food drive this year.

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.

SIGN-UP FOR "NEW" ONLINE GIVING PROGRAM

Now at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish you can automate your weekly donation. You can sign-up online by visiting www.paloaltocatholic.org and click the Online Giving icon on the homepage. Your Sunday Offertory donations, as well as gifts to our Second Collections, will be automatically transferred from either your checking or savings account. Or use your credit card! A one-time enrollment will allow you to regularly contribute to St. Thomas Aquinas without remembering the extra step of writing a check and finding your envelopes. Online Giving is safe, easy and convenient for you and it helps us! Questions, call Cathy Miller (650) 494-2496 ext. 24.