

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

NO "NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION"? HERE'S ONE SUGGESTION.

Why do we make New Year's resolutions? Perhaps, it is because we want to become better people. I don't think it's any more complicated than that. Today's Scripture readings proclaim this same message. God, also, wants us to become better people, and that's why St. Paul wrote: "When the designated time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law, those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted children."

Before the miracle of Christmas, some 20 centuries ago; before the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us— St. Paul reminds us that once we were a people who were lost and helpless; we were slaves to a law that could not save us.

Today, in a very real way, on this 1st of January, we mark a new beginning— full of hope and promise. And so what can you or I do this year to make ourselves better people? And maybe just as importantly, what can you or I do this year to make other people's lives better?

Instead of the word "resolution," I'd like to challenge us to a new word: "re-commitment." "Re-commitment"— not to a task, or an agenda— not to an idea or a program, but a "re-commitment" to the One who was given the name: Jesus.

In our Eucharist, on this first day of the year of our Lord, 2012, may we never fear or hesitate to turn to Mary, the Mother of the Church, the one "who treasured all things and reflected on them in her heart" especially in those moments when our human frailties lead us away from Jesus, the One who is Light and Truth.

Fr. Matt

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you for your generosity in this year's Christmas collection. Although we are not yet able to give you a complete report of the size of your gift given in that collection, we assure you that the love which these gifts represent will enable us to continue the work which we must undertake here at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. If you were not prepared for our Christmas collection, we encourage you still to make your gift. Your generosity will help us more than you can imagine.

Our Weekly Offering	
Goal	\$11,000.00
December 18th	\$10,500.00
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$5,000.00
Christmas.....	TBA

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., Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan

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., Clothilda Rita Wait, Verna Ogren

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, January 1:
9:00 am SAG ... Thanksgiving for Encarnacion & Pedron Family
Readings: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Monday, January 2: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
8:30 am OLR ... Rita Lynn & Gloria Martinez †
12:15 pm STA .. Benjamin Cittadino (health)
Readings: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday, January 3:
8:30 am OLR ... Antonio R. Palomo Jr. †
Readings: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday, January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
8:30 am OLR ... Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan (health)
Readings: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday, January 5: St. John Neumann
8:30 am OLR ... Jim Early †
Readings: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51

Friday, January 6: St. André Bessette
Readings: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]

Saturday, January 7: St. Raymond of Penyafort
12:15 pm STA .. Francois & Maria Cecilia Torregrosa †
5:00 pm SAG ... Robert Gaspich †
Readings: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Jan 7 & 8, 2012

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. Marini
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. Seimas
Sun 6:00 pm Fr. Seimas

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 1: The Octave of Christmas; New Year's Day; Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace; *No 6pm OLR Mass*
8:30 am . . . Rosary for Peace (SAG)
11:30 am . . . Byzantine Liturgy (SAGH)

Monday, January 2:

Tuesday, January 3: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Wednesday, January 4:

10:00 am . . . Adult Spirituality Board (PC)
6:00 pm . . . RCIC (PC)
6:00 pm . . . SOUP (PC)
7:00 pm . . . Community Life (PC)

Thursday, January 5:

10:00 am . . . Faith Sharing (SAGH)
12:00 pm . . . Ignatian Spirituality (STAH)
5:30 pm . . . STAYouth (DC)
7:00 pm . . . Centering Prayer (OLR)

Friday, January 6: First Friday

6:00 pm . . . Adoration (OLR)
6:00 pm . . . STAYouth (DC)
7:00 pm . . . Sp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, January 7: First Saturday; Julian Calendar Christmas

8:00 am . . . Environment Team (OLR)
8:00 am . . . Liturgy Board (SAGH)

CENTERING PRAYER MOVES

The Centering Prayer group will now be meditating in the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Rosary. Come and pray with others 7:00pm- 8:00pm every Thursday. For information or instruction Email Jean jamacciotti@dsj.org

OFFICE – HOLIDAY HOURS

Our Parish Office will close for the New Year Holiday, December 30th - January 2nd. We will be open again on Tuesday, January 3rd.

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

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*)
6:00 pm – *No Mass*

EPIPHANY – JANUARY 7TH – 8TH

Regular Weekend Mass schedule



A CHRISTMAS "THANK YOU" FROM YOUR PARISH STAFF

Thank you for your expressions of kindness and love, for your remembrance of us in your prayers, and for your generous support of our work throughout the year. We are privileged to be called to serve you. We also extend our deepest gratitude to those who helped prepare our churches for Christmas. We are also grateful to those who donated cash gifts towards our poinsettias, garland, greens and trees. A special thank you to all those who served as Environment Team, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Hospitality Ministers and Ushers, Musicians, and Choir Members. All of you made this a prayerful and festive Christmas.

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.

PARKING NOTICE

Please do not park in any area that is designated NO PARKING ZONE. Please be considerate and park only in a legal space. Over the last few weekends, the Palo Alto Police Department has advised us that parishioners are parking in red zones on both Waverly St. & Homer Ave. This is illegal and cars will be ticketed.

January 1, 2012

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

25 and 50+ Silver and Golden Wedding Anniversary
Celebration, February 4, 2012, 2:00 pm

Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph, 80 South Market Street,
San José — Bishop Patrick J. McGrath of the Diocese of San
Jose would like to invite all couples celebrating their 25th,
40th and 50th (or more) Wedding Anniversaries in 2012 to
participate in the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the
Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph in downtown San Jose.

The couples will be invited to renew their wedding vows and
will receive a blessing from Bishop Patrick McGrath who will
preside over the celebration. Each couple will also receive a
certificate signed by the Bishop.

The Mass will be on February 4, 2012 at 2pm. A short
reception will follow after. Please visit your parish office
or call Sylvia Blanch (blanch@dsj.org) at 408-983-0128,
or visit www.dsj.org/WeddingAnniversaryMass for more
information and to register. Pre-registration is required by
January 25, 2012. Due to limited seats, please reserve seats
only for anniversary couples and handicapped. Doors open at
12:30pm. Please limit number of guests attending to 8.

CHRISTMAS MAILING

A couple of weeks ago, you should have received our
annual Christmas mailing, which was sent to all registered
parishioners. Included in it are our Christmas letter and
parish liturgical schedule. If you did not receive one, chances
are you are not currently registered or you may have moved.
Please call Cathy at the Pastoral Center (650) 494-2496 (ext.
24) to update your registration information.

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.