

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

TODAY'S MESSAGE

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

This Sunday, February 12, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is again promoting World Marriage Day in U.S. dioceses and parishes. This annual event honors the vocation of marriage and family. This celebration affirms the life-long, sacramental commitment of husbands and wives and gives witness to the positive impact of their vocation on their families, communities, the Church and our Nation. In 1993, World Marriage Day received the Apostolic Blessing of John Paul II and continues to grow and spread among many countries.

Locally in February the Diocese of San Jose just recently held a 25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral. Two couples from our parish were present: Vincent & Mary Beth Lefebvre celebrating 25 years and Tom & Pauline Brosnan celebrating 50 years. My wife Linda and I had the privilege of celebrating our 25th Anniversary at the 2009 Anniversary Mass. It was a special day for both of us, and I would encourage you to contact the Office of Parish Services at the Diocese for next year's Anniversary Mass if you are celebrating a Silver or Gold Wedding Anniversary. The Diocese website at www.dsj.org has pictures of the 2011 celebration and you might recognize some fellow parishioners!

Chuck Tully, Parish Administrator

PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is just a couple of weeks away (February 22nd). It's time to return your blessed palms from last year, so that we may prepare the ashes for this year. Please bring them with you to Mass over the two weekends and place them in the basket in the vestibule; these palms will be burned at the end of each Mass on the weekend of February 19.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

We encourage every family and household to practice good stewardship. Remember sacrificial giving is planned, thoughtful, and proportional and it symbolizes your commitment to Christ and the Church. We encourage you to consider using the

 **Our Weekly Offering**
Feb 5th . Actual \$11,500 Goal \$11,000

Sunday Offertory Envelopes or Online Giving as a way of giving to the Lord the "first fruits" of the "treasure" you 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., Frank Briggs Sr., Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan, Fr. Tony Medina, Arminda Schembri, Linda Staelgraeve, Erika Staelgraeve, William McNerny, Dominador Navarro, Cecilio V. Suarez Jr.

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Charles Horngren, Ramona Thille, Venerando Baltazar, Maria Marszal, Patricia Tighe, Fr. Raymond Maher, Vera Leung, Lawrence Barrett Jr., Clothilda Rita Wait, Verna Ogren, Irene Butler, Frank Ventura, Maryhelen Macpherson

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, February 12:

10:30 am OLR . . Vincent & Mary Beth Lefebvre & family (sp. int.)
10:30 am STA . . Clothilda Rita Wait †
Readings: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 32; 1 Cor 10:31 — 11:1; Mk 1:40-45

Monday, February 13:

8:30 am OLR . . . James Chin †
12:15 pm STA . . Sybil Pfluke †
Readings: Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 14: Ss. Cyril and Methodius

8:30 am OLR . . . Dylan Thomas Cummins (sp. int.)
12:15 pm STA . . William McNerny (health)
Readings: Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 15:

8:30 am OLR . . . Sr. Marjorie Burger SSJ †
12:15 pm STA . . Benjamin Cittadino †
Readings: Jas 1:19-27; Mk 8:22-26

Thursday, February 16:

12:15 pm STA . . Benjamin Cittadino †
Readings: Jas 2:1-9; Mk 8:27-33

Friday, February 17:

12:15 pm STA . . James & Edith Dubbs †
Readings: Jas 2:14-24, 26; Mk 8:34 — 9:1

Saturday, February 18:

5:00 pm SAG . . . Palomo family (sp. int.)
Readings: Jas 3:1-10; Mk 9:2-13

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Feb 18 & 19, 2012

St. Albert the Great
Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Valenton
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Seimas
Sun 11:00 am Fr. Hernandez

St. Thomas Aquinas
Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester
Sun 8:45 am Fr. Rubio
Sun 10:30 am Fr. San Vincente
Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Valenton
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Seimas
Sun 6:00 pm Fr. Stanley

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, February 12: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; Lincoln's Birthday

9:15, 10:15 am Lenten Family Day (OLRH/SESS)

10:00 am ... SAG Site Comm (SAGH)

11:30 am ... Byzantine Liturgy (SAGH)

3:30 pm ... STAYouth (DC)

Monday, February 13:

7:00 pm ... Catechesis Mtg (PC)

7:00 pm ... RCIA (PC)

7:00 pm ... TMC (TH)

Tuesday, February 14: Valentine's Day

1:00 pm ... Legion of Mary (TH)

6:00 pm ... Sp. Baptism Class (PC)

7:00 pm ... Knights of Columbus (OLRH)

Wednesday, February 15:

10:00 am ... Adult Spirituality Brd (PC)

6:00 pm ... SOUP (OLRH)

Thursday, February 16:

10:00 am ... Faith Sharing (SAGH)

12:00 pm ... Ignatian Spirituality (STAH)

5:30 pm ... STAYouth (DC)

7:00 pm ... Centering Prayer (OLR)

7:00 pm ... Comm Board (PC)

Friday, February 17: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

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

Saturday, February 18: Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am ... Environment Team (OLR)

6:00 pm ... Crab Dinner (SESS)

CRAB DINNER DANCE

The Knights of Columbus will hold its annual Crab Dinner Dance on Sat, Feb 18, starting at 6:00. It will feature dance music by Knight's Sounds, a Silent Auction to benefit St. Elizabeth Seton School and a really good dinner.

Tickets will be on sale outside church at all Masses. You may also obtain tickets by calling Mike Lin at 650-856-0186, Jerry Lucha at 650-424-9660 or John Uebbing at 650-494-2350. If you have any quality items that you would like to donate for the Silent Auction, please call John Uebbing at 650-494-2450. Items may also be left on his porch at 665 Towle Way.

OUR PARISH – OUR DIOCESE – TOGETHER IN CHRIST

ADA Goal: \$120,000 Pledged: \$42,285 * Pledges: 76

Average Pledge: \$556 % of Goal: 35%

We are off to a fairly decent start. My thanks to the 76 gifts received on our Pledge Sunday. So far 43 people have made pledges that were equal to their 2011 pledge. 22 people increased their 2011 pledge, while 8 pledges were less than 2009. 3 people have pledged in 2012 who were unable to pledge in 2011. There are 7 weeks remaining in this year's campaign. With everyone's participation, we can meet and surpass our ADA goal; however, this will only be possible if every parish household participates according to their means. Remember, payments can be made over the next 10 months. A pledge of \$300 is just \$30 a month. Use your Visa or MasterCard, make an Electronic Funds Transfer from your checking account, or donate online at dsj.org. Anything raised above our ADA goal will directly benefit St. Thomas Aquinas!

TAIZE PRAYER DURING LENT

The 3 pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Time given to prayer during Lent will draw us closer to the Lord.

Taize Prayer is a time for connecting in joy and gratitude, nurturing the PRESENCE within. Echoes of shared prayer..."your prayer is my prayer too" sustain and support you. Candles shine in remembrance of Your LIGHT and the LIGHT in the world. Melodic chants and inspirational readings call you deeper to the SPIRIT within and the beauty of GOD'S presence.

Every Thursday evening during Lent: February 23rd and March 1st at 7:00 pm at Saint Albert the Great Church. March 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th at 7:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church

TWO INITIATIVES – PNI AND SAFE – PLEASE SIGN

The Bishop has directed every parish in our Diocese to to gather signatures on two initiatives with the goal of getting them on the ballot in California in November. Parish volunteers will be collecting signatures before and after Masses on Febr. 18 & 19, and on Febr. 25 & 26. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the two initiatives and be prepared to sign the petitions.

PNI - The Parental Notification Initiative will help protect young girls by requiring DOCTORS to inform at least one parent before performing an abortion on an underage girl.

SAFE - The SAFE California Initiative repeals the current death penalty for persons found guilty of murder, and replaces it with life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

REQUEST FOR HELP! Please, we need many volunteers to cover entrances at our eight Masses, ready with both petitions to be signed. Contact Jean Ramacciotti (pajeandr@yahoo.com) or Laura Chiu (lauraleechiu@gmail.com) to sign up for one (or two) of the masses. For those who need training, Jean will be at the pastoral center on Saturday morning Febr. 18 from 10-12 to give directions and answer questions.

February 12, 2012

LIFE TEEN

Our Annual Life Teen Deanery 2 retreat was held the last weekend in January. Thirty high school teens from parishes within our Deanery (St. Joseph, St. Athanasius, St. Simon, St. William, St. Nicholas, and of course ST. THOMAS AQUINAS) came together for an amazing weekend filled with faith and fun at our very own Dermody Center. The theme of the retreat was "Alpha & Omega." We had five sessions on our retreat; each session highlighted a different liturgical season using the colors and symbols of each.

This retreat wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for all the hard work that has gone into the Dermody Center (thank you DC Committee). Thank you to everyone who participated in our PINK FLAMINGO Fundraiser. A special thank you to our Core Team: Tim Donovan, Chris Hoiland, Sarah Landers, and Francesco Poggese. Without our Core Team accepting God's call to Youth Ministry none of this would be possible!!!

GREEN CORNER

As much as half of the energy used in your home goes towards heating and cooling. Start saving money and energy by adjusting your thermostat—in winter, be sure to lower the thermostat by at least 10 degrees when you are not at home or are sleeping (vice-versa for summer). Use 7 day programmable thermostats, which adjust the temperature automatically according to the time settings you program into it. *Source: GreenFaith - www.greenfaith.org / The Green Committee*

STRIKE UP THE BAND FOR ST. PATRICK'S VOLUNTEERS

This year's festival of parish Irish American traditions should be the best! A party on St. Patrick's Day evening itself -- Saturday, Mar 17th! Still room for volunteers: decorations on Fri night and Sat AM, ticket sales, rides for seniors and home bound, kitchen help, bartenders, clean up. A great opportunity to meet new people, add to and personalize the fun, and stake out a great seat for the sell-out event for you and your family and friends. Contact Joe Kinsella 364-3705

HELP WANTED IN EPA

Can you spare from 4:30–5:30pm each Wednesday or even once a month to set up tables and chairs in preparation for the free dinner served at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic church hall at 1425 Bay Road in East Palo Alto? You are welcome to stay, help serve and visit with people who need a helping hand and a warm dinner. Call Terry at 650-714-2131

Human Concerns Committee