

First Sunday of Lent

TODAY'S MESSAGE

POPE'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Lenten season offers us once again an opportunity to reflect upon the very heart of Christian life: charity. This is a favorable time to renew our journey of faith, both as individuals and as a community, with the help of the word of God and the sacraments. This journey is one marked by prayer and sharing, silence and fasting, in anticipation of the joy of Easter.

This year I would like to propose a few thoughts in the light of a brief biblical passage drawn from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works". These words are part of a passage in which the sacred author exhorts us to trust in Jesus Christ as the High Priest who has won us forgiveness and opened up a pathway to God. Embracing Christ bears fruit in a life structured by the three theological virtues: it means approaching the Lord "sincere in heart and filled with faith" (v. 22), keeping firm "in the hope we profess" (v. 23) and ever mindful of living a life of "love and good works" (v. 24) together with our brothers and sisters. The author states that to sustain this life shaped by the Gospel it is important to participate in the liturgy and community prayer, mindful of the eschatological goal of full communion in God (v. 25).

In a world which demands of Christians a renewed witness of love and fidelity to the Lord, may all of us feel the urgent need to anticipate one another in charity, service and good works (cf. Heb 6:10). This appeal is particularly pressing in this holy season of preparation for Easter. As I offer my prayerful good wishes for a blessed and fruitful Lenten period, I entrust all of you to the intercession of the Mary Ever Virgin and cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

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



Our Weekly Offering

Feb 26th Actual TBA Goal \$11,000

to consider using the Sunday Offertory Envelopes or Parish Pay as a way of giving to the Lord the "first fruits" of the "treasure" you have received.



Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Msgr. William Lenane, Fr. Thierry Geris, Sr. Jeannette Donnelly, Norman Swope, Mary Fong, Devin Wakefield, Robert Kerrigan Sr., Frank Briggs Sr., Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan, Fr. Tony Medina, Arminda Schembri, Linda Staelgraeve, Erika Staelgraeve, William McNerny, Cecilio V. Suarez Jr.

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Maria Marszal, Fr. Raymond Maher, Vera Leung, Lawrence Barrett Jr., Clothilda Rita Wait, Verna Ogren, Irene Butler, Frank Ventura, Maryhelen Macpherson, Dominador Navarro

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 26:

10:30 am OLR... Paul Vavuris †

10:30 am STA... Clothilda Rita Wait †

Readings: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Monday, February 27:

7:15 am STA... Nancy Wegener (health)

8:30 am OLR... Lourdes R. Sangil †

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 28:

8:30 am OLR... Frank Ventura †

12:15 am STA... James Chin †

Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 29:

8:30 am OLR... Eileen Fitzgerald (health)

Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, March 1:

12:15 am STA... Dolores Winans †

Readings: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday, March 2:

8:30 am OLR... Nell Fitzgerald †

Readings: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, March 3:

5:00 pm SAG... James & Edith Dubbs †

Readings: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Mar 3 & 4, 2012

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Valenton

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 TBA

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Stanley

Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am Fr. Valenton

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Valenton

Sun 6:00 pm Youth Fr. Stanley

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, February 26: First Sunday of Lent;
Rite of Election; Rite of Calling the
Candidates to Continuing Conversion;
Rite of Sending

9:15, 10:15 am STA Kids (ISP/SESS)
10:30 am Hisp. Confirmation (DC)
11:30 am Byzantine Liturgy (SAGH)
3:30 pm STAYouth (DC)

Monday, February 27:

9:30 am Bldg & Main (PC)
7:30 pm RCIA (PC)
7:00 pm TMC (TH)
7:30 pm Green Comm (PC)

Tuesday, February 28:

1:00 pm Legion of Mary (TH)
7:00 pm Spirituality Tuesday (SAGH)
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus (OLRH)

Wednesday, February 29:

9:30 am Bldg & Main (PC)
6:00 pm RCIC (DC)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:00 pm Legion of Mary (TH)

Thursday, March 1:

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

Friday, March 2: Abstinence; First Friday;
World Day of Prayer

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

Saturday, March 3: St. Katharine Drexel;
First Saturday

8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)
5:00 pm Hisp. Intl Dinner (OLRH)

ABSTINENCE

All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from eating meat. All who 14 years of age and above are bound by this law, and there is no upper age limit. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are also days of fast. This law binds those who are 18 to 59 years of age. Please refer to the purple Lenten handout which gives more details.

2012 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

“Our Parish – Our Diocese – Together in Christ” ADA Goal: \$120,000
Pledged: \$56,027 • Pledges: 121 • Average Pledge: \$463 • % of Goal: 46%

Due to the President’s Holiday, we are unable to give an update during our 3rd week. However, we will report our progress on our web page and at Sunday Mass. I am sure we are at least 50% of the way toward our goal. There are 5 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. 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!

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAY ASSEMBLY

February 28th OPEN FORUM NIGHT; Your Questions, Our Answers! With all of our Parish Clergy — A repeat of one of the most fun evenings last year! Father Matt opened the evening by giving us a quiz (no grades or scores were revealed) and that began a fun and educational dialogue about some basic and some less well known facts about our Church and our faith. Please, bring YOUR questions about the Church, the Liturgy and lives of our Clergy. Fathers Matt, Randy, Peter and Deacon Daniel and Michael will do their best to answer as many questions as time permits. This is a “not to be missed” opportunity!

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” sustains and supports 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: 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.

RITE OF ELECTION

It is fitting that on this First Sunday of Lent, the catechumens from our parish are sent to the Rite of Election by Bishop McGrath. At ceremonies in St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica this week, our Bishop will declare several hundred men, women, and children from throughout the Diocese to be our Elect, those chosen for the Easter Sacraments. Please keep all of the Elect in your prayers. They look to you for the support of your prayer, example and friendship. As they look forward to their baptism, look forward, too to the Easter renewal of your own baptismal promises.

February 26, 2012

WHAT'S HAPPENING DURING LENT?

For information on many of our Parish Lenten activities, we included in last week's Bulletin a purple handout. Extra copies are available in the vestibule. You can also find it on our parish webpage. There is one correction: Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper will be at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. We ask that you keep this sheet in a handy place for future reference throughout these six weeks.

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

Thursday March 1st at 5:30 Dinner at Pro Bono Cafe
2437 Birch Street, Palo Alto. Dinner includes Soup or Salad
Choice of 4 Entrees and Dessert, Coffee or Tea. R.S.V.P.
JEANNE RAMOS 650-325-8788 or Jeanne@ramos.be

PARISH BENEFIT CONCERT FOR PHILIPPINE RELIEF

Held last Sunday afternoon, a wonderful concert of uplifting music wafted out of St. Thomas Aquinas Church as a benefit for those suffering in the Philippines from the damage and destruction caused by the December 2011 floods from Tropical Storm Washi.

Contributions raised that day totaled \$5,400, and more checks are on their way in. The funds will be deposited with Catholic Relief Services for use in the Philippine relief effort.

Congratulations to Mari Olsen, a member of our 9:00 a.m. St. Albert the Great Choir, who conceived and arranged this concert on behalf of her home town in the Philippines. Thank you to the amazing generosity of our parishioners in this fund raising effort.

SAVE YOUR GREEN FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENT!

The St. Thomas Aquinas Parish St. Patrick's Day event is not just an opportunity to wear green -- it's an opportunity to save it! For less than the cost of a movie and popcorn, you can be among the sold-out crowd on Saturday evening, Mar 17th, at the St. Elizabeth Seton School auditorium. \$15 (adults) or \$5 (children under 12) buys you an entertainment program of live Irish music, dancing, singing, snacks, an abundant corned beef dinner with all the trimmings, and all the hospitality you can embrace. Perfect for seniors and families with children -- to bring back fond memories of parish traditions and to create new ones. Tickets go on sale at all Masses during the weekend Mar 3 - 4. Got time to volunteer to assist? Contact Joe Kinsella: 650-619-3750. Erin go braugh!