

Fourth Sunday of Lent

TODAY'S MESSAGE

SCRUTINIES FOR THE ELECT

As part of The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), the Rites of Scrutiny will be celebrated this and next Sunday. A scrutiny consists of: Liturgy of the Word, Homily, General Intercessions, prayers and exorcism during Mass for those seeking Baptism. Cycle A readings are used at the Masses where the Rites are celebrated.

The purpose of The Scrutinies is to uncover and heal all that is weak and sinful in the hearts of the elect—and also in the hearts of “the faithful” at Mass. The People of God join with the elect in these communal rites of penance and reconciliation. We are invited to search our own souls and examine our own conscience with the hope of being delivered from sin and saved from its present and future consequences.

As a community, we, the baptized, encourage and support our six elect who are seeking Baptism at the Easter Vigil on April 7. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue this spiritual journey to become children of God and fully-initiated members of God’s household.

Jean Ramacciotti, RCIA Coordinator

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 February was \$10,556—a 6% increase vs. 2011. Our Offertory goal for Jul – Feb was \$375,000. Our actual collection for Jul – Feb was \$355,000. This \$20,000 shortfall is equal to 50% of our utility bill for the past 7 months. Remember, we need an average of \$11,000 a week in order to meet all of our financial responsibilities—including the blessing a 3rd 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!**

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 Sunday Offertory Envelopes or Online Giving as a way of giving to the Lord the “first fruits” of the “treasure” you have received.



Our Weekly Offering

Mar 11th Actual \$8,500 Goal \$11,000
Catholic Relief Services \$5,000



Please Pray



FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — 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., Theresa Diulus, Joan Sterling, Edna Jamati

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, Robert Purcell, Judith Ann Canales, Msgr. William Lenane

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, March 18:

9:00 am SAG ... Dayo Fashoro (sp. int.)
10:30 am STA ... Richard & Rosalie Diouf †
Readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Monday, March 19: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am OLR ... Clare Thomas & children (sp. int.)
12:15 pm STA ... Dayo Fashoro (sp. int.)
Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday, March 20:

Readings: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 21:

8:30 am OLR ... Sharon Head (health)
Readings: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday, March 22:

8:30 am OLR ... Sr. Victoria (sp. int.)
Readings: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday, March 23: St. Turibius de Mogrovejo

8:30 am OLR ... Mary Peters †
Readings: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 24:

5:00 pm SAG ... Mass of Thanksgiving for Jacqueline Diouf
Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Mar 24 & 25, 2012

St. Albert the Great
Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Stanley
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. Marini
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Seimas
Sun 12 noon TBD

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, March 18: Fourth Sunday of Lent;
Second Scrutiny

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

Monday, March 19:

7:30 pm RCIA (PC)
7:30 pm TMC (TH)

Tuesday, March 20: Spring begins

7:00 pm Hisp. Board Mtg (PC)
7:00 pm Spirituality Tuesday (SAGH)
7:30 pm Human Concerns (OLRH)

Wednesday, March 21:

10:00 am Adult Spirituality Brd (PC)
6:00 pm RCIC (DC)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)

Thursday, March 22:

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 Hisp. 1st Comm. (PC)
7:00 pm Taize Prayer (OLR)

Friday, March 23: Abstinence

7:00 pm Sp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, March 24:

8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)
9:00 am Lenten Retreat (TH)
10:30 am Baptism Class (PC)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The call to conversion and reconciliation is central to Lent. It is the Church's desire that all Catholics celebrate this sacrament prior to our entry into the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday from 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM at St. Thomas Aquinas Church & 4:15 PM – 4:45 PM at St. Albert the Great. We will have two Lenten Penance Liturgies on Monday, March 19 at 7:00 PM at St. Albert the Great & Monday, March 26 at 7:00 PM at Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

2012 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

"Our Parish – Our Diocese – Together in Christ" ADA Goal: \$120,000
Pledged: \$106,000 • Pledges: 238 • Average Pledge: \$446 • % of Goal: 88%

We increased our march toward our goal by 5% last week. We have \$14,000 to go! Only 35 gifts of \$400 each will put us over the top. My gratitude for the 238 families who had made pledges and gifts toward this year's Appeal. So far 116 people have made pledges that were equal to their 2011 pledge. An amazing 61 people increased their 2011 pledge, while 31 pledges were less than 2011. 29 new households have pledged in 2012 that were unable to pledge in 2011. We really would like to hear from the 130 families who pledged in 2011 and have yet to make their gift for 2012. We also need to increase our number of NEW PLEDGES. There are only 2 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!

CRAB DINNER DANCE

Parishioners and others enjoy their crab at the Palo Alto Knights of Columbus Crab Dinner Dance held on February 18 in the St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium. About \$1400 was raised from the Silent Auction and this money will go for the benefit of St. Elizabeth Seton School.

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAY ASSEMBLY

March 20th – Our Experience of Suffering in Culture and in Faith; Our speaker: Sherry Cassidy; Suffering can be an alienating experience and counter-cultural in this hedonistic society. How do we understand suffering in the context of faith? Explore Buddhist, Hindu and Christian visions of suffering with special guest speaker Sherry Cassidy. Review and reflect on Pope John Paul II letter: Salvifici Doloris, On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering. How do we integrate suffering into our experience; redemptive suffering, St. Mary's suffering and the Passion of Jesus?

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

One can get a hot meal every day of the week in Palo Alto, except Sunday when food is available just over the border of Palo Alto in Menlo Park. Housing needs are more difficult to meet, as is evidenced by the numbers of homeless in our community. Our St. Thomas Aquinas St. Vincent de Paul Conference gives out food bags regularly in addition to meeting many other needs: rent & utility help, purchase of medicine, purchase of cell phone minutes, clothing & other necessities. March 25 is the collection Sunday for St. Vincent de Paul. Please remember the less fortunate among us when the collection basket comes your way.

HOTEL DE ZINK

Our parish will be taking food to the homeless folks staying at the Church of Christ during April. We will be taking the food during the first two weeks. I will be signing people up to bring food after the Masses during the month of March. If I miss you after Mass and you want to bring food, please call Ruth Chippendale 856 6350.

March 18, 2012

ANNUAL PARISH SEDER DINNER

Enjoy a traditional Seder lamb dinner, Scripture readings and an explanation of the Passover Feast, Tuesday April 3rd at 6:30 pm, in Our Lady of the Rosary Hall. The dinner cost is \$10 and any additional donations will be sent to Father Jack Donald, who grew up in our parish and is a missionary in Honduras. Reserve your place at the table by calling Sandra at the Pastoral Center (650-494-2496) or Laurie 650-494-3572 or by email: Jeanne@ramos.be. All donations, and meal costs, are paid at the door. Everyone is welcome!

WIDOW AND WIDOWERS DINNER

The Trellis Restaurant, 1077 El Camino Real in Menlo Park; April 12; No host happy hour starts at 5 p.m; Dinner served at 6 p.m. There will be a choice of three entrees.

Trellis is on the west side opposite Keppler's bookstore and Public Parking is behind the Trellis. Please R.S.V.P. for dinner to Joan at 650-494-3467. If you wish to be added to our communications list also send note to Rolquinmac@me.com

ST. ELIZABETH SETON SCHOOL

Open Enrollment and Non-Discriminatory Policy

Testing for our Full-Day Kindergarten began the week of February 20th. If you have a child who will be entering our Full-Day Kindergarten next year, he/she must be 5 years old by September 1st in order to be eligible. School applications are available in the school office for all grades. If you have friends or family members who are interested in sending their children to Seton, please have them contact the office or drop by for an application.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY – St. Elizabeth Seton School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and does not discriminate on the basis of race color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs and other school-administered programs.

LENTEN RETREAT MARCH 24

The Merton Center Spiritual Education Committee invites you to attend a Lenten retreat, Saturday, March 24, 9 am—12:00 noon, in the Thomas House, 745 Waverley Street, Palo Alto (next door to St. Thomas Aquinas Church). The retreat leader is Clare Ronzani, and the theme is: Meditations with Thomas Merton: A Time of Lenten Renewal.

Space in the Thomas House is limited, so if you even think you might attend, please R.S.V.P. to Pat McCarthy at (650) 858-0597, pmmccar1@comcast.net. Donations gratefully accepted.