

Fifth Sunday of Lent

TODAY'S MESSAGE

YOUTH MINISTRY & LENT — The season of Lent has been a blessed one for Youth Ministry. The EDGE (Middle School) has spent this season focusing on social justice and works of mercy. Our Youth brought in food for St Vincent de Paul and “survival backpacks” for the homeless. Life Teen has been exploring and learning about Blessed John Paul II Theology of the Body (TOB). Life Teen-ers were taught that we are made in the image and likeness of God and are created in and for love.

Our ministry works to bring our teens closer to Christ. Through that journey we try to help them understand that in a world where it sometimes seems difficult to answer the question “where is God?” that there is indeed an answer: they are called to be the loving presence of the God in this world. As our semester comes to a close, we look forward to our summer activities: Retreats, Camps, Immersion Trips, Bible Study— a faith and fun filled summer. We thank you all for your continued support and prayers for our youth.

Alley White, Youth Ministry Coordinator

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MCGRATH

On March 1st, 2012, organizers of the SAFE California Campaign announced they had collected 800,000 signatures, far surpassing the necessary 504,000 signatures needed to qualify the initiative for the November 2012 ballot. The SAFE California Initiative seeks to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment without possibility of parole. I join my brother bishops of California in congratulating the SAFE California Campaign on this monumental victory and extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Diocese of San Jose who gave so generously of their time to ensure the initiative’s placement on the November ballot. Please be assured of my full support as we continue to heed the Church’s call to faithful citizenship, defending the sanctity of human life by working to replace the death penalty in California. We are grateful as well for all those who participated in the Parental Notification Initiative which has until late April to qualify for the ballot.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you for your generosity toward the work and mission of our parish. As you know, we are totally dependent upon all of our parishioners for our livelihood. We are so grateful for the sacrifices you make so that the work of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish may continue to impact the lives of so many. We encourage everyone to



Our Weekly Offering

Mar 18th Actual \$10,500 Goal \$11,000
St. Elizabeth Seton School... \$3,600

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.
THANK YOU FOR SHARING GOD’S GIFTS!

Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Fr. Thierry Geris, Sr. Jeannette Donnelly, Norman Swope, Mary Feng, Devin Wakefield, Robert Kerrigan Sr., Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan, Fr. Tony Medina, Linda Staelgraeve, Erika Staelgraeve, William McNerny, Cecilio V. Suarez Jr., Theresa Diulus, Joan Sterling, Edna Jamati, Kimberly Bishop

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, Arminda Schembri, Frank Briggs Sr.

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 25:
7:30 am STA... Eric Salvatierra †
9:00 am SAG ... Robert Purcell †
10:30 am STA... Clothilda Rita Wait †
6:00 pm OLR ... Lavern Mугan †
Readings: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Monday, March 26:
8:30 am OLR ... Clare Thomas & children (sp. int.)
12:15 pm STA .. Msgr. William Lenane †
Readings: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, March 27:
8:30 am OLR ... Frank Ventura †
Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday, March 28:
8:30 am OLR ... Edilberta Escobar (health)
Readings: Dn 3:14-20, 9:1-9, 95; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, March 29:
12:15 pm STA .. Bertha Gretz †
Readings: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday, March 30:
8:30 am OLR ... Hal Meyn †
Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, March 31:
12:15 pm STA .. special intention
Readings: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Mar 31 & April 1, 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..... Msgr. Sandersfeld
Sun 10:30 am..... Fr. Stanley
Sun 12 noon Fr. Kromholtz, O.P.

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 25: Fifth Sunday of Lent;
Third Scrutiny

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

Monday, March 26: The Annunciation of
the Lord

7:00 pm RCIA (PC)
7:30 pm Green Comm. (PC)
7:30 pm PADDT (SESA)
7:30 pm TMC (TH)

Tuesday, March 27:

7:00 pm Hisp. Board Mtg (PC)
7:30 pm Human Concerns (OLRH)
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus (OLRH)
7:30 pm PADDT (SESA)

Wednesday, March 28:

9:15 am Fr. Allen Church History (OLRH)
9:30 am Building & Main. (PC)
6:00 pm RCIC (DC)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:00 pm Spirituality Wednesday
(SAGH)

Thursday, March 29:

10:00 am Faith Sharing (SAGH)
12:00 pm Ignatian Spirituality (STAH)
7:00 pm Catechist Mtg. (OLRH)
7:00 pm Centering Prayer (OLR)
7:00 pm Hisp. 1st Comm. (PC)
7:00 pm Taize Prayer (OLR)

Friday, March 30: Abstinence

7:00 pm Sp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, March 31:

8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)
9:00 am RCIA Retreat (SAGH)

PASSION SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, April 1st. Each Mass will begin with the blessing of palms outside the main entrance of our churches. You should plan on arriving early so as to help alleviate the parking and traffic problems. As always, please observe the "no parking" zones, as these are marked to allow for access by emergency vehicles.

2012 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

"Our Parish – Our Diocese – Together in Christ" ADA Goal: \$120,000
Pledged: \$112,000 • Pledges: 255 • Average Pledge: \$439 • % of Goal: 94%

We increased our march toward our goal by 6% last week with 17 more pledges. We have \$8,000 to go during the last week of our "official" campaign! Only 20 more gifts of \$400 each will put us over the top. My gratitude for the 255 families who had made pledges and gifts toward this year's Appeal. With everyone's participation, we can meet and surpass our ADA goal. 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!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. MATT



Father Matt's
Blowing out
the Candles...

Father Matt's
Birthday Celebration
On his 50th at OLR



FATHER
CUTS
THE
"OVER THE HILL"
CAKE.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The call to conversion and reconciliation is central to Lent. 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 one more Lenten Penance Liturgy on Mon, March 26 at 7:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

SPIRITUALITY WEDNESDAY ASSEMBLY

March 28th WEDNESDAY The Way of the Cross — Join Father Matt as he leads us through one of the most popular of Catholic Lenten devotions: The Stations of the Cross. We are pilgrims, in spirit, as we witness, and pray, at the scene of Christ's Passion in Jerusalem. This is a prayer tradition which dates back to the time of Constantine. Accompany Him on the journey at Saint Albert the Great Church, 7:00 pm.

THANK YOU

Life Teen Ministry would like to send out a BIG THANK YOU to the families who have been providing us with our YUMMY dinner this year! Thank you Clifford Family, Howard Family, Schurr Family, Gill Family, Putulin Family, & Fox Family. It has been so nice to gather as a youth ministry around the Lords table at Mass and then the dinner table while at Life Teen on Sunday nights. Thank you AGAIN!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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.

March 25, 2012

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

How many Earths do we need? Find out in the website www.myfootprint.org which has 27 questions to determine how one's practices impact the Earth. At the end of the quiz you will know how many Earths we would need if everyone on the planet lived the same lifestyle. It also includes actions to reduce our carbon footprint. Source: www.myfootprint.org

The Green Committee

PLENTY OF THANKS

Hearty thank-yous for all who made the annual St. Patrick's Day event a success. Special acknowledgement goes to Evelyn Rosa, Principal of St. Elizabeth Seton School, for allowing the use of the auditorium, as well as Sandra Pedersen, parish Administrative Assistant, who handled the many planning details, including ticket sales during the week. We also wish to acknowledge our entertainers -- particularly "Banish the Dogs" -- and Ernie's Liquors and Wines, who ensured that hospitality was ample. The meal could not have been better -- thanks to Ted Baer and crew and Carol Pulliam, who baked a bounty of authentic Irish soda bread. The volunteers also deserve great credit -- the energy on which a parish runs. Finally, we acknowledge those of you who participated as guests, adding life to the legacy of this decades-long parish tradition. Slainte!

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 Kepler'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

ITALY PILGRIMAGE

Please join Fr George Aranha and fellow pilgrims on a trip to Italy in the fall of this year (2012). The pilgrimage will last for 12 days from October 29th to November 9th and will include Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi, Rome and the Vatican.

The Air and Land tour price is \$2,599 plus \$610 government taxes/airline fuel surcharges. Before the trip, each passenger will contribute \$120 to cover all tips pertaining to the 12 days pilgrimage. If you are interested, please call the parish office for a brochure that includes the itinerary and a registration form. Please join us. It will be a Pilgrimage of a lifetime.