

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

TODAY'S MESSAGE

WHAT IS ORDINARY TIME? WHY SHOULD WE CELEBRATE IT?

Ordinary Time is a season of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church that was so named after Vatican II. It used to be called 'the season after Epiphany', or 'the season after Pentecost'. It usually runs either 33 or 34 weeks, depending on moveable feasts like Easter, and is broken up by the big seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. It begins after Epiphany and continues until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. And it starts up again after the Easter season, after Pentecost.

Ordinary Time (from the Latin 'ordinalis' or 'numbered') is actually our time. Time to ponder our own lives, where we've been, where we're going and maybe where we should go, as well as how we might enrich our spiritual life in a number of ways; by prayer, reading scripture, perhaps going to daily Mass. When was the last time you picked up your Bible and read the scriptures yourself rather than just hearing bits of them on Sundays at Mass? Join a Bible study group. Read one book of the Bible per week this summer. Visit the new library at the Thomas House.

Ordinary Time is a time to reflect on our roles as followers of Christ. Am I being a good steward of all of my blessings? We live in a wonderful city, and are blessed with abundance of gifts. Do we help others whom we encounter each day or do we look the other way? There's no need to try to save the world, just look around you and see what you can do to make someone else's life a little easier. And thank God for your blessings each day.

This season of Ordinary Time is far from ordinary. Try to find the extraordinary during this time in our lives. And celebrate it!

Nora Lundin, Director of Liturgy & Music

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The next couple of months, the time of vacations and weekends away, are always quite challenging for our parish financially. As the attendance at our weekend liturgies dwindles, so can the weekly support of our parishioners: a very good reason to consider using Online Giving. The challenge lies in the fact that our financial responsibilities do not go away during the summer. Thank you for your generosity toward the work and mission of the parish. As you know, we are totally dependent upon you all of our parishioners for our livelihood. **THANK YOU FOR SHARING GOD'S GIFTS!**

 *Our Weekly Offering*

July 22 Actual \$8,800 • Goal \$11,000
Missionary Cooperative..... \$5,000

Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Norman Swope, Devin Wakefield, Robert Kerrigan Sr., Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan, Linda Staelgraeve, Erika Staelgraeve, William McNerny, Cecilio V. Suarez Jr., Theresa Diulus, Kimberly Bishop, Mary Lee Hagen, Fr. Thierry Geris, Douglas Hein, Frances Galea, Mary Peterson, Betty Heigel

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Hong Lee, Fr. Tony Medina, Irene Zupon, Marguerite Chang, Marianne Pelligrini, Michel Boudart, Rachel Salcedo, William J. Wall, Emil Trojak, Rose DeVasto, William Chamberlain, Jean Koo, Natividad Aguila, Joan Sterling

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, July 29:

9:00 am SAG ... Emil Trojak †
10:30 am OLR ... Antoine Aclimandos †
10:30 am STA ... Clothilda Rita Wait †
Readings: 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

Monday, July 30: St. Peter Chysologus

8:30 am OLR ... Brian Franklin †
12:15 pm STA ... Marie Barr †
Readings: Jer 13:1-11; Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday, July 31: St. Ignatius of Loyola

8:30 am OLR ... Pat Franklin †
Readings: Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday, August 1: St. Alphonsus

Liguori
8:30 am OLR ... Wangdue Dolma (health)
12:15 pm STA ... Syd & Audrey Custodio
(wedding anniversary)
Readings: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Mt 13:44-46

Thursday, August 2: St. Eusebius of Vercelli;
St. Peter Julian Eymard

8:30 am OLR ... John Mensick (memorial)
Readings: Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53

Friday, August 3:

8:30 am OLR ... Odette Aclimandos †
Readings: Jer 26:1-9; Mt 13:54-58

Saturday, August 4: St. John Mary Vianney

5:00 pm SAG ... Mary Leon Guerrero †
Readings: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Mt 14:1-12

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday August 4 & 5, 2012

St. Albert the Great
Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Epie
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Epie
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. Epie
Sun 12 noon TBD

Our Lady of the Rosary
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Stanley
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Stanley

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, July 29: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
3:00 pm Hispanic Young Adult (OLRH)
4:00 pm STAYouth (DC)
7:00 pm STAY the Summer (OLRH)

Monday, July 30:

Tuesday, July 31:

Wednesday, August 1:

Thursday, August 2:
10:00 am Adult Spirituality (PC)
7:00 pm Community Life (PC)
7:00 pm Centering Prayer (DC)
7:30 pm Latin Circle (TH)

Friday, August 3: First Friday
7:00 pm Adoration (OLR)
7:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, August 4: First Saturday
8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)
5:00 pm STA Site Comm. Dinner (TH)

THANK YOU

Mrs. Elsie Trojak wishes to extend her sincerest thanks and gratitude to the St. Thomas Parish and parishioners for all the thoughtfulness, caring and support during this time of grief. Heartfelt thanks to all.

PARISH STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

This year several of our parish staff celebrate special anniversaries of serving the parish community of St. Thomas Aquinas: Nora Lundin (Director of Liturgy & Music) 5 years; Irene Holowchak (Asst. to the Business Manager) 10 years; Godofredo Alfaro (Maintenance Supervisor) 20 years; Dr. Bill Mahrt (Choir Director) 25 years. Many more happy years!

ON VACATION

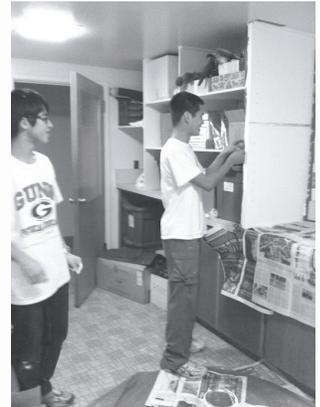
Fr. Matt will be on Summer Vacation through August 12th. We wish him a restful and relaxing time. Yes! It's Maui this year!

BIG THANK YOU TO EAGLE TROOP 5 OF STANFORD

On behalf of our parish, the Green Committee wants to express our utmost appreciation to the following Troop 5 scouts: *Dan Frei, Alex Frei, Gary Chen, Bryan Yang, Julian Maggard, Justin Wang, Jaxon Welsh, Sheldon Chen, Diederick Degroot, Paul Degroot, Mihir Juvvadi and Lawrence Chen.*

For the past several months, they have worked hard during school breaks and weekends to design and construct sturdy shelves in the former laundry room at the pastoral center so our 100% compostable party supplies can be properly stored and organized. Mostly importantly, these supplies are now elevated from the floor, away from the rat poisons and dirty floor mops.

Their efforts are a big contribution to our parish's Z.W.I.P. (Zero Waste Is Possible) campaign, which was launched a couple years ago to encourage all ministries to switch to using plant-based products rather than petroleum-based plastic or styrofoam products.



HOTEL DE ZINK

Our parish will be taking food to the Hotel de Zink (shelter for the homeless) during the last two weeks of August. The Hotel will be at the Christian Reformed Church on Arastradero Road. I will be signing folks up to bring food after the Masses during the month of July. Please check your calendars to see when it would be a good time for you to help. If you have questions, or if I miss you at Mass, please call me at 856-6350. Thanks, Ruth Chippendale

TICKETS FOR ITALIAN DINNER AUGUST 4

Get your tickets today after Mass for the Italian dinner on August 4 in the Thomas House, 5:00—8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to this gourmet Italian feast. There will be individualized service to handicapped persons and their parties in various rooms on the first floor; reserve these tables in advance. Tickets for the dinner are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets are on sale today and at the parish office. A wine and beer cash bar is a tradition at such parish events, and this one is no exception. The bar will be open from 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:30—7:00 p.m. Contact Helen Baumann for ticket information, handicapped table reservations, and sales: (650) 327-9236, hbaumann@aol.com, or for tickets only, Sandra Pedersen at the Pastoral Center, 650-494-2496.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION — THIS SUNDAY!

The goal of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to offer tangible assistance to those in need on a person to person basis and to offer spiritual services. A key strength of the Society is in the personalized delivery of help. This aid may take the form of intervention, consultation or often through direct dollar or in-kind service. St. Vincent de Paul has thousands of volunteers all over the world, including St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Your generosity in next Sunday's 2nd collection will assist our own local conference of St. Vincent de Paul to help our neighbors in need..

July 29, 2012

UPDATE ON 2012 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

St. Thomas Aquinas' ADA totals as of July 29, 2012 are:
Total pledged: \$143,500 • Total paid: \$124,000
Total Refund: \$4,000 • Anticipated Refund: \$24,000
Number of Donors: 354

Please keep making your regular payments. When all our pledges have been paid, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish will receive a much needed rebate to help us pay for some important improvements to our parish facilities. Thank you for your support of Bishop McGrath and our local Church.

BECOMING CATHOLIC...

Do you have an interest in becoming Catholic? Were you baptized as a child but have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation? Our adult inquiry sessions continue all year long. For more information about the process, please call Jean Ramacciotti (650) 494-2496 ext. 34 or jramacciotti@dsj.org

THE SAFE CA ACT

At our last meeting, the Pastoral Stewardship Council has voted to officially support the SAFE California Act, which will be Prop 34 on the upcoming November ballot. With enough YES votes, it will deliver historic change to California by replacing the death penalty with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. It will also protect the innocent, save more than \$100 million every year, and focus public safety resources on solving violent crimes to keep our communities safe. To learn more about this important issue, please come to the house party sponsored by Channing House and Peninsula Peace and Justice Center. The speaker will be Reginald Reese, who worked as the Associate Warden at San Quentin Prison before his retirement. It will be held on Monday, August 6, at 7pm, at Channing House, 11th Floor, 850 Webster Street, Palo Alto. Free and open to all. Contributions to support passage of the SAFE CA Act will be requested. RSVP: Terry McCaffrey (650) 324-7517 or email chsafe6@gmail.com

SUMMER OF SAINTS FILM FESTIVAL

The Catholic Trek film festival continues with the story of St. Gianna Molla who sacrificed her life for her unborn child in 1962. We'll start at 7:30pm Monday night, July 30th, in the St. Nicholas Parish Hall (473 Lincoln Ave, Los Altos). Movie snacks will be provided. For more details, including a list of the upcoming features, see <http://adultcircle.shutterfly.com> or call (408) 554-5823. Catholic Trek is a group for Catholics, single and married, 30's to 40's.