

# Second Sunday of Advent



## TODAY'S MESSAGE

YEAR OF FAITH – THE SEASON OF ADVENT

When I talk about Advent season I always get excited. It reminds me of my childhood days of preparing for Christmas. I enjoyed helping my family by putting Christmas lanterns in our home, buying Christmas presents, and above all, attending the Advent novena Masses what we called “Simbang Gabi” or “Misa de Gallo”.

As I got older, I learned that Advent is more than just that. The Advent season helps us to spiritually prepare for the coming of the Lord in our life and to experience a joyful expectation while we are waiting. Even the Gloria is omitted on Sundays during Advent.

The season itself creates a longing that will inspire people to sing more joyfully on Christmas. Moreover, Advent is a time for conversion, reflection, and a time to straighten our path to God. John the Baptist shows us that the mercy of God is infinite. God is always faithful, merciful, loving and forgiving.

Fr. Randy

## ADVENT PENANCE LITURGIES & CONFESSIONS

During the Advent Season, local parishes in our Deanery will offer several opportunities for you to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Christmas Season.

St. Simon Parish on December 17 at 3:30pm & 7:00pm

**Monday, December 17th at 7:00pm – Our Lady of the Rosary**

**Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00pm – St. Albert the Great**

St. Athanasius Parish on December 18 at 7:30pm

St. William Parish on December 19 at 3:30pm

St. Nicholas Parish on December 19 at 7:30pm

## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

What you commit to God's work here at St. Thomas Aquinas will significantly impact our programs, ministries, services, staffing, buildings and grounds. May our good and generous God guide your We encourage everyone to consider using the



### Our Weekly Offering

Dec 2 Actual: \$10,000 \* Goal: \$11,000  
Thanksgiving: \$1,850

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!



### Please Pray

**FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** — Norman Swope, Devin Wakefield, Robert Kerrigan Sr., Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan, William McNerny, Theresa Diulus, Fr. Thierry Geris, Douglas Hein, Consuelo Hernandez, Kathy Gibbs, George Kimm, John Braun, Bill Todd, Lester Connelly, Lil Nguyen, Tom Kocal, Rochelle Ford, Gary Goodahl, Carl Bunje

**FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED** — Betty Stivala, Elizabeth Hiegel, George Locke, Barbara Jorpin, Frances Galea, Virginia Marovich, Jerry McGovern, Gary Fazzino, Francis Tucker O'Brien, Marguerite Purcell

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](mailto:fongmt@hotmail.com)

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 9:

8:45 am STA. . . . Frances Galea †

9:00 am SAG . . . Richard & Rosalie Diouf †

10:30 am OLR . . Paul Gretz †

Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Monday, December 10:

8:30 am OLR . . . Joseph Binh Nguyen †

Readings: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 11: St. Damasus I

8:30 am OLR . . . Kim Nguyen & Ngoe Ngo †

12:15 pm STA . . Thomas & Sons (sp. int.)

Readings: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 am OLR . . . David Riehl †

Readings: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Thursday, December 13: St. Lucy

8:30 am OLR . . . Mary Heckler †

12:15 pm STA . . All Souls

Readings: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 14: St. John of the Cross

8:30 am OLR . . . Gearailt & Michael

Cummins (sp. int.)

12:15 pm STA . . Giuseppa Pennisi †

Readings: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 15:

12:15 pm STA . . Clothilda Rita Wait †

Readings: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

## PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday December 15 & 16, 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 . . . . . Fr. Brown

Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Stanley

Sun 12 noon . . . . . Fr. Thompson, O.P.

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am . . . . . Fr. Gammad

Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Seimas

Sun 6:00 pm Youth . . . . . Fr. Valenton

# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 9: Second Sunday of Advent; Hanukkah begins

10:30 am . . . . SAG Site (SAGH)

4:00 pm . . . . STAYouth (DC)

4:30 pm . . . . Edge (DC)

7:00 pm . . . . Catechists Gathering (DC)

7:00 pm . . . . Life Teen (DC)

Monday, December 10: International Human Rights Day

6:00 pm . . . . Hispanic Catechists  
Christmas Party (OLRH)

7:00 pm . . . . Latin Class (TH)

7:00 pm . . . . RCIA (PC)

Tuesday, December 11:

3:00 pm . . . . SESS Choir Practice (SAG)

5:30 pm . . . . 1st Reconciliation (SAG)

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

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

7:00 pm . . . . Spirituality Tuesdays (SAGH)

Wednesday, December 12:

9:15 am . . . . History Class (SAG)

6:00 pm . . . . RCIA for Children (DC)

6:30 pm . . . . Pastoral Stewardship (SAGH)

Thursday, December 13:

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

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

7:00 pm . . . . STA Site (TH)

7:00 pm . . . . TMC (TH)

Friday, December 14:

5:00 pm . . . . Goretta Group (STA)

6:00 pm . . . . Friday Night Lights (DC)

7:30 pm . . . . Hispanic Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, December 15: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

8:30 am . . . . Liturgy Board (SAGH)

10:00 am . . . . Oneight (DC)

10:30 am . . . . Baptism Class (PC)

11:30 am . . . . STAY Cool (OLR)

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We need your help in making our churches look beautiful for the holidays. Won't you consider making a donation toward a poinsettia plant in remembrance of a loved one or just as a gift from you? Special Christmas Flower Envelopes are available in the pews. All of your gifts will be greatly appreciated.

## SPIRITUALITY TUESDAYS

DECEMBER 11th: Our Lady of Guadalupe with Deacon Dominick Peloso — In 1531, ten years after the Spaniards conquered the Aztecs, Our Lady appeared in Mexico City to a humble and saintly Aztec Indian. She brought much peace between the two cultures and caused the conversion of millions of natives to the Catholic faith. Deacon Dominick Peloso of Nativity Church in Menlo Park will speak about the historical events leading up to this great appearance, the clash of cultures, the messages given to Juan Diego, and the scientific findings that show the tilma to indeed be a miraculous sign from heaven for all the Americas.

Deacon Dominick Peloso was born in Hilo, Hawaii. He was in the seminary for 10 years studying to be a priest. After completing two years of graduate theology courses, he left and worked for the Menlo Park Police Department for 31 years retiring in 2001. He has a Master's Degree in Administration and has taken an additional 30 graduate units of Catholic theology. He is married with three grown children and seven grandchildren. He was ordained a permanent deacon in 1999 and serves his home parish of Nativity in Menlo Park.

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center; refreshments follow.

## SECOND COLLECTION — RETIRED RELIGIOUS — THIS SUNDAY

Support elderly religious. There are 70,798 Religious in the United States; Donations for 2011 from the United States were \$27.4 million; The Diocese of San Jose collected \$161,178 in 2011. Please Share in the Care and give generously to this week's second collection.

## THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL EAST PALO ALTO CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

In this season of Advent, blessed with abundance, we again ask your assistance in creating a Joy-filled Christmas for families in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park. Our partnership with the St Francis Saint Vincent de Paul provides an opportunity for us to bring families food and gifts for Christmas.

FOOD: Food sorting and packing will take place on Friday, December 14th starting at 6 pm at Saint Francis of Assisi Church Hall, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. The St. Thomas Aquinas teen club does the brunt of this work.

Boxes will be prepared for delivery starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 15th, at Saint Francis Church Hall. Workers are needed to help finish the packing and to deliver the boxes. Drivers and helpers are especially needed. The delivery will be from 10:30 am to 1pm.

TOYS: The Giving Tree in the back of the Church has tags of suggested gifts appropriate for different age children. Please help us provide gifts for families. Purchases should be dropped off, unwrapped, under the tree until December 21..

Use your special skills at Christmas shopping to make up wonderful bags of toys for the many children being helped by St Vincent de Paul in East Palo Alto. The toys have been supplied by our parish giving trees and from many other sources. Skill in selecting the right toys does make a difference.

Selecting, packing and delivering of these Christmas gifts will take place Friday and Saturday, (12/21 & 12/22). The hours are between 1 and 5:30 pm. To help, just show up at the St Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Rd., East Palo Alto. The new toy work site is located on Bay Rd. just to the right of the church and rectory. For information call George Chippendale, 856-6350 (home) or 391-4199 (cell).

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# December 9, 2012

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## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

It's not too late to be a part of our annual Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals begin today (12/9) at 11:15 at St. Albert the Great and 12:30 at Our Lady of the Rosary (meet in the Hall at OLR this week). The pageant will be presented during the proclamation of the Gospel at our Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Masses. Applications are available in the vestibule of the church, or just come to rehearsal. Rehearsals will continue at the same time on the 16th (at SAG only) and 23rd. Contact Susan in the Pastoral Center if you have questions.

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY – A BALLET

Join us for a delightful production of The Christmas Story - the story of the birth of Jesus - set to the music of The Nutcracker Suite. Susan Olsen, new Catechetical Coordinator for Children's Ministries, is bringing her dance companies (adults and children) from Holy Family to share this ballet with the people of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Tickets are available in the Pastoral Center and at the door.

Date: Sunday, December 16, 2012, Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: St. Albert the Great, Seton School Hall

Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, (Family ticket for 2 adults and children in the family - \$50)

All proceeds from the sale of tickets will go to a fund for new carpet at St. Albert the Great. If you have questions about this production, please contact Susan in the Pastoral Center (494-2694, ext. 25) or [suolsen@dsj.org](mailto:suolsen@dsj.org).

## GREEN CORNER

A new Union of Concerned Scientists UCS study, Cream of the Crop: The Economic Benefits of Organic Dairy Farms, reveals that public investment in organic dairy farmers would pay off in multiple ways. In addition to producing a healthier product and safeguarding the environment, organic dairy farms generate greater economic opportunity and more jobs in rural communities compared with conventional dairies. But current agriculture policy favors big polluting CAFOs (confined animal feed operations) over organic dairy farms. And because Congress has failed to act on the now-overdue 2012 Farm Bill—the 5-year legislative package that shapes U.S. agriculture—the limited programs that currently help organic dairy farmers are at risk.

We can change this, but we need quick action. Tell Congress: pass a Farm Bill—one that calls for investments in organic dairies and other healthy-food farmers—NOW.

Source: <http://www.ucsusa.org/>  
The Green Committee