

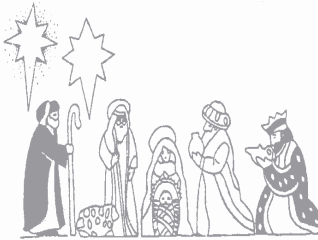
Fourth Sunday of Advent



TODAY'S MESSAGE

Year of Faith – Season of Advent

WE'RE ALMOST THERE! On this eve of Christmas Eve, we come to the close of our Advent Season, a season of preparation, anticipation, and celebration. The whole world celebrates with us, though not for the same reasons. The wish for "happy holidays" resounds wherever we go. Most have long since moved from the purple of Advent (if they were ever there) to the bright red and green of Christmas. The "holidays" reign. Calendars are filled with events honoring the approaching celebration. Time is spent gathered with friends, relatives, and co-workers in celebration. The world is filled with lights and decorations; our homes have never looked quite so beautiful as they do at this time of year.



Then comes CHRISTMAS DAY! Presents are opened; a feast is shared. We celebrate our Savior's birth, and then it is gone. The church will continue to be resplendent in the colors of Christmas for three more weeks as we celebrate The Holy Family and the coming of the Magi at Epiphany. The Christmas Season doesn't end until we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, well beyond the time that most of the decorations in the world around us have been taken down. The bright lights and colors of Christmas have long since faded; they began to grow dim on December 26th, and we become restless to move on to the next thing.

In this Year of Faith, let us truly celebrate what this season is all about and allow Christmas to linger. If the signs of Christmas disappear from our world, let them remain deeply embedded in our hearts & minds throughout the Christmas Season and well into the new year. God's peace and blessings be with all of you at Christmas and beyond.

Susan Lee Olsen, Catechetical Coordinator for Children's Ministries

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 decisions. We encourage everyone to consider

Our Weekly Offering

Dec 16 Actual: \$TBA * Goal: \$11,000
St. Vincent de Paul: TBA

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!

Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Norman Swope, Devin Wakefield, Robert Kerrigan Sr., William McInerney, 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, Renee Thompson, Joan Campbell

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

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, December 23:

9:00 am SAG ... Orefeo & Linda Befero †
Readings: *Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45*

Monday, December 24:

Readings: *2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79*

Tuesday, December 25:

Readings: *Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]; Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14; Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20; Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]*

Wednesday, December 26: St. Stephen

8:30 am OLR ... Oswald & Rosario Limuan †
12:15 pm STA .. Thomas Mendez & Jose Mendez †
Readings: *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22*

Thursday, December 27: St. John

7:15 am STA... Thomas & Sons (sp. int.)
8:30 am OLR ... James Cesano †
12:15 pm STA .. Catherine McKosker †
Readings: *1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8*

Friday, December 28:

8:30 am OLR ... Deceased members of Baker family †
12:15 pm STA .. Virginia McKosker †
Readings: *1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18*

Saturday, December 29: St. Thomas Becket

Readings: *1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35*

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday December 29 & 30, 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. Marini
Sun 10:30 am..... Fr. Stanley
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, December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00 pm STAYouth (DC)
4:30 pm Edge Christmas Fun (DC)
7:00 pm Life Teen Christmas Fun (DC)

Monday, December 24: Vigil of Christmas;
Pastoral Center Closed
7:00 pm TMC Liturgy (TH)

Tuesday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas); *Pastoral Center Closed*

Wednesday, December 26: First Day of Kwanzaa; *Pastoral Center Closed*

Thursday, December 27:
7:00 pm Centering Prayer (DC)

Friday, December 28: The Holy Innocents
7:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, December 29: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)

O COME, LONG FORETOLD
O come, Desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.
Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.
—Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745),
Tr. by Mary of St. Philip (1825-1904)

PASTORAL CENTER HOURS

Our Pastoral Center will close for the Christmas Holidays, December 21st at 5pm, and we will be open again on Thursday, December 27th.

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

ADVENT PENANCE

St. Thomas Aquinas Church on December 22 at 11:30 am (Confessions Only)
St. Albert the Great Church on December 23 at 4:15 pm (Confessions Only)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

2012-2013 CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE – MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

5:00 pm Family Mass – Our Lady of the Rosary
(Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass)

5:00 pm Family Mass – St. Albert the Great
(Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass)

6:00 pm – St. Thomas Aquinas

7:00 pm – Our Lady of the Rosary *(Spanish)*

12:00 am Midnight Mass – St. Thomas Aquinas *(Gregorian)*

CHRISTMAS DAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

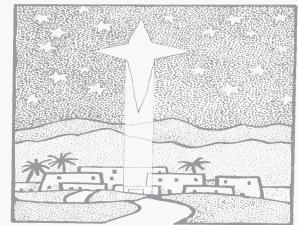
7:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas

9:00 am – St. Albert the Great

10:30 am – Our Lady of the Rosary

10:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas

12:00 noon – St. Thomas Aquinas *(Gregorian)*



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 29TH – 30TH

Regular Weekend Mass schedule

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE – TUESDAY, JANUARY 1ST

7:15 am – St. Thomas Aquinas

8:00 am – Rosary for Peace & 8:30 am Mass – Our Lady of the Rosary

12:00 noon – St. Thomas Aquinas *(Gregorian)*

(No 12:15pm Mass)

EPIPHANY – JANUARY 5TH – 6TH

Regular Weekend Mass schedule

ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL REPORT 2011-2012

In light of the tremendous generosity of our parishioners, our local St. Vincent de Paul Conference provided over \$60,000 worth of assistance to the poor, needy, and downtrodden. We express our deep and sincere gratitude to our St. Vincent de Paul members who minister in the name of Christ with love and compassion. Visit our website for a more detailed report.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & FLOWERS

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.

December 23, 2012

GREEN CORNER

With the colder weather, please make sure the doors to our churches are closed to keep the heat in, and the cold out. When the heaters are "ON", please help us keep the church doors closed to conserve energy and reduce the resulting CO₂ emissions. *The Green Committee*

CENTERING PRAYER EVERY THURSDAY

Join us every Thursday at Dermody Center for silent meditation from 7-8pm. We adhere to the process taught by Fr. Thomas Keating. Come and taste and see the goodness of quieting your mind so you can open up to the action and presence of the Holy Spirit. Contact Jean Ramacciotti at pajeandr@yahoo.com for information or instruction.

SILVER AND GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Patrick J. McGrath would like to invite all couples celebrating their 25th, 40th and 50th (or more) Wedding Anniversaries in 2013 to participate in the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph in downtown San Jose. The Mass will be on Feb 9, 2013 at 2pm. A short reception will follow after. Please contact the Pastoral Center or refer to our website paloaltocatholic.org to register.

IRELAND PILGRIMAGE

It's that time again! Fr. Matt will be leading a pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle where we will spend some time in the Waterford area, Killarney, Galway, Connemara, Knock, Sligo and Dublin. This is a beautiful country and we will surely have a grand old time! We will depart the states on August 19, 2013 and return on August 29 unless you opt for the extended trip to London for four days. If you do, you will return on September 1. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Fr. Matt at 650-494-2496 ext. 12 or mstanley@dsj.org. I hope to see many of you on this special pilgrimage!

SIGN UP FOR THE PARISH eBULLETIN

The parish eBulletin is sent to 315+ parish families every Friday morning. It includes reminders, announcements and articles of interest to the parish. Because of the electronic format, we are able to include more content than the Sunday paper bulletin as well as provide last minute announcements. We will not share your email address with any other organization, commercial entity, or individual person. There are green sheets in each of our vestibules -- just add your email address and drop it in the basket. We encourage you to sign up!