



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 11, 2018

Readings

This week:

1 Kings 17:10–16

Hebrews 9:24–28

Mark 12:38–44

Next week:

Daniel 12:1–3

Hebrews 10:11–14, 18

Mark 13:24–32

Psalm

You are my inheritance, O Lord. (*Psalm 16*)

Today

Today's presider is Rev. Larry Percell.

The Thomas Merton Center community worships and celebrates Sunday liturgy each week at the regularly scheduled 8:45 am parish Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Waverley and Homer Streets, Palo Alto. Members of the Thomas Merton community participate in planning these liturgies in the spirit of Vatican II and its call to "full, active and conscious participation" in Catholic liturgical life.

The Thomas Merton Center is supported by your donations. If you choose to donate, there are return envelopes in the bulletin on the last Sunday of each month for your convenience (donations by check or cash are welcome). The donation basket is in the back of church after Mass or available by the coffeepot after Mass—or you can use the envelope to mail your donation. **Please do not put your TMC envelope in the collection baskets passed during Mass (these are for parish contributions only).**

Calendar

Monday, Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m. TMC Liturgy Committee, Thomas House Library
Wednesday, Nov. 14: 7:30 p.m. STA Site Committee, Thomas House Library
Friday, Nov. 16, 6:00 p.m. STA Fish Fest Dinner: Thomas House
Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 17-18 Refurbishing Memorial Garden benches & garden

From Thomas Merton

How many people there are in the world of today who have "lost their faith" along with the vain hopes and illusions of their childhood. What they called "faith" was just one among all the other illusions. They placed all their hope in a certain sense of spiritual peace, of comfort, of interior equilibrium, of self-respect. Then, when they began to struggle with the real difficulties and burdens of mature life, when they became aware of their own weakness, they lost their peace, they let go of their precious self-respect, and it became impossible for them to "believe." That is to say, it became impossible for them to comfort themselves, to reassure themselves, with the images and concepts that they found reassuring in childhood.

--New Seeds of Contemplation

The Thomas Merton Center for Catholic Spiritual Development, P.O. Box 60061, Palo Alto, California 94306, was founded by a group of Roman Catholic lay persons in 1995, and incorporated in 1996, to offer Catholic liturgy, to augment, support and lead the development of ecumenical spirituality, and to foster new ways for Catholics and other Christians to develop a deeper spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ and, through him, with God. From its Catholic roots, it seeks to join with members of other faiths, Christian and non-Christian, to support religious education and spiritual development.

COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

STA Garden Spruce Up coming Nov. 17 & 18:

Please help spruce up the furniture in the STA Memorial Garden (between the church building and the Thomas House--did you know it had a name?)

We need 2 people to help with power wash of the 3 benches and table at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov.17.

Three people are also needed to deadhead flowers and pull weeds, 9:30 -11:00 a.m.. Then 4 people are needed on Sunday Nov.18, from 2 - 4 p.m., applying Tung Oil to the furniture.

Please call Vicki Sullivan 650-327-5339, email vick-sullivan@comcast.net or just show up!! Thanks from Helen Baumann and Vicki Sullivan.

Save Dec. 1: Advent Morning with Fr. Ballard

Saturday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon: Advent Morning of Reflection, led by Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J., at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall, 3233 Cowper St.

Bring yourself into the spirit of Advent and spiritual clarity with Fr. Ballard, who will guide us to contemplate the joy of the Gospels by drawing us into the Advent Scriptures and deepening our awareness of the call to holiness in the season. Take time to listen, meditate, and share the insights that arise.

This is an informal, supportive environment, sure to be leavened by Fr. Ballard's unique humor and accessible interpretations. Fr. Ballard is in residence at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos as a chaplain and celebrates the 8:45 Sunday Mass at STA church monthly. He also gives retreats at the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos (El Retiro San Inigo) and is a spiritual director for those following the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius.

Altar of Remembrance for photos of deceased:



Themed on the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead, our Altar of Remembrance welcomes your photos of deceased loved ones. Be sure to label your photos on the back with your name and phone number.

PRAY FOR US: Please remember in your prayers this week Denise Alongi, Rudy Bahr, George Bouchey, Tom Carmody, George Chippendale, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Ken Dias, Pat Dietrich, Dick Freeman, Fr. Thierry Geris, Deonna Gill, Emily Gill, Joanne Hasegawa, Fr. John Hester, Dean Judd, Hunter Kubit, Dick Jackman, Alicia Kot, Fr. Bill Leininger, Andre and Alyssa Lippard, Deacon Ysidro and Dolores Madrigal, Mary Rose McGuire, Maureen Mooney, Hayden Pastorini, Paul Prochaska, Anne Rush, Priya Smith, Bernice Sullivan, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, Kay Williams, and T. J. Wooten. [Add or subtract names by e-mailing editors: Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams. See below.]

Friday Fish Fest Nov. 16 at Thomas House:



Shut your kitchen door and come on down to the Thomas House for a tasty fish and coleslaw supper at the STA Friday Fish Fest on November 16.

We start at 6:00 p.m. and finish by 8:00, and in between there is camaraderie, laughter, sharing, learning about folks whose faces may be familiar but whose stories are not. We sometimes have a sing-along with one of our Sunday music ministers. Sponsored by the STA Site Committee, the Fish Fest draws folks from all the STA Mass communities--there are 6 distinct groups, each clustered around a particular daily or Sunday Mass. This is a chance to cross-pollinate!

We ask for a \$5 donation for the meal, and \$2 each for a glass of wine or a beer. You are free to bring a dessert to share, but otherwise, the fare is simply fish and chips with coleslaw on the side.

RSVP is necessary, to be sure we have enough fish! Helen Baumann, hbaumann@aol.com, 650-327-9236.

Update on blankets and sleeping bags:

Thank you, parishioners at STA site, who contributed to a parish-wide total donation of 18 blankets, 7 sleeping bags and one futon mattress. They have been distributed to Fr Goode at St Francis of Assisi in EPA, our parish St Vincent de Paul Society and the Opportunity Center for people who need warmth this winter. For any future donations, please call 650-714-2131.

—The Human Concerns Committee, co-sponsored by the Green Committee as a reuse event.

November food drive:



November is Food Drive Month, which benefits our parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference. We are excited that the youth of our parish STAY program will be helping distribute bags for your generous donations. The more food donated the less food we need to purchase.

Particularly needed: Pop-top can of chili or protein soup, Pop-top can of tuna or chicken.

Please grab a donation bag from the displays in each of our church vestibules beginning in November, and bring it back filled.

Board: Gerard McGuire, gerardmc@aol.com, 650-814-2223

Bulletin: Kay Williams (Nov. 11) kaywill@pacbell.net

Michelle Hogan (Nov. 18 & 25) myhogan@comcast.net

Finance: Helena Wee, 650-323-7987, shhwee@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: Jim Davis, 328-2584

Liturgy: John Arnold, 325-1421, jsaoso@comcast.net

Sally Benson, 408-972-5843, sallymbenson@gmail.com

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Needs Net: Roberta Kehret, 650-494-1488, robkehr@yahoo.com

Adult Education: Jim Davis, 650-704-8002, Jim_Davis@pacbell.net

Mary Coady, 650-261-9155, coady_94025@yahoo.com

SpeakOut: Diana Diamond, 650-323-4787, dianaldiamond@gmail.com

COMMUNITY FORUM

Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns

Help find music leader for 8:45 Mass:



As we announced at Mass on Nov. 4, the 8:45 Mass Liturgy Committee is seeking a replacement music group for the Eke family (who are not available for the foreseeable future) and, particularly, a music leader

who sings and plays an instrument such as guitar or piano. We would like to hear any recommendations or interest you, or someone you know, might have in filling that ministry. It is important that the music leader be familiar with Catholic liturgy and the music in the Breaking Bread hymnal. Not to be too dramatic, but the need is immediate!

This would be a twice-a-month commitment, alternating with Larry Schemel and the TMC Community Singers. Financial compensation is offered.

Please contact Maureen Locke at (650) 854-1539, mo.locke1@gmail.com, with questions and recommendations.

Seton School Library needs volunteers:

Seton School turned its library into offices about a year ago, and the library books need to be catalogued before being installed in other classrooms.

Vicki Sullivan is looking for volunteers to help with this project on Mondays and Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Contact her at (650) 740-0124, or vickisullivan@comcast.net.

Nov. 11: Peaceful Presence for Peace

Sunday, November 11, 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.: Peaceful Presence Multifaith Prayers for Peace at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, 2751 Louis Rd., Palo Alto.

Let us come together for much needed time of healing, prayers, strength and gratitude. Peaceful Presence is a monthly gathering hosted by diverse faith communities for multifaith prayers for peace and strength for the journey. The prayer time will include elements from several religious traditions. All are welcome, church or unchurched, who wish to pray with others.

Bulletin submissions must be e-mailed by Thursday noon or phoned by Thursday, 9:00 pm, to:
Kay, kaywill@pacbell.net, (650) 270-4188,
and Michelle, myhogan@comcast.net, (650) 493-8452.

Restoring our democracy to health:

[Editorial, *National Catholic Reporter*, 11/7/18]

The significance of this year's midterm election is not that Democrats regained control of the House, though that will provide a welcome brake on the reckless and dangerous impulses of the Trump administration... [T]he surprise would have been if the Democrats had done anything less.

And while retaking the House is widely seen as a repudiation of the Trump agenda, we remain a government and country divided...

The real significance of the midterm results — as well as some hope for the future — lies deeper in the details of who won, where the Democratic wins occurred beyond the national offices, and how it all happened. The repudiation of Trump is significant in that it occurred at a time when all the economic indicators would invite voters to be complacent and unwilling to roil the status quo.

The opposite was the case, and important wins occurred often against record amounts of dark money. Another more important factor that evidenced itself in state after state was unusually high turnout for a midterm election. ...

The adjustment effected by voters was significant particularly at the level of state house races and governorships, offices that have failed to draw the interest of Democrats in recent years. Yet they are the offices, as Republicans have demonstrated, upon which national success is predicated. In governor's races, the Democrats won seven seats and the Republicans lost seven.

The Democratic Party's efforts were undergirded by grassroots fundraising that well outpaced traditional fundraising means and by newly energized volunteers and candidates, especially women....

The body politic is certainly in failing health when the president relies on race baiting, diminishing the institutions of the democracy he leads, bullying and persistent lying to project a narrative that inspires hate and is simply false.

The illness approaches contagion when members of the party he leads give assent by their silence to such behavior. Trump, regardless of what his authoritarian tendencies might suggest, will one day be gone from that office. The question for Republicans is "What will be left of us?" ... #

Just say the words:

[By Brian Cahill, *Nat. Catholic Reporter*, 11/3/2018]

This is about John Cahill, my police officer son who lost his way and took his life in December 2008. This is about LeAnn Cahill, my daughter who struggled most of her adult life with mental illness, and took her life in August 2016. This is about a father who lost two of his children to suicide. This is about a father who has to fight against the feeling that he is a freak and a total failure. This is about a father who has tried and is still trying to figure out how to pray after his life turned upside down — twice.

It's not that I don't have meaningful, loving support — support from my wife, Donna, John and LeAnn's step-mother, whose love has kept me breathing through both these nightmares. I have been blessed with two wise and compassionate counselors who have kept me sane — Janet Childs, with the Centre for Living With Dying in San Jose, California, and Patrick Arbore, who leads a grief support group at the at the Institute on Aging in San Francisco.

I have been blessed with an equally wise and compassionate spiritual adviser in Jesuit Fr. Bernie Bush, an 80-year-young retreat master at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, California.

I'm also blessed with a core group of close friends who let me talk about it if I want, and know the difference between sympathy (ugh!) and empathy (I'll take all I can get).

A few years after John died, I wrote about what happened to him, about cops and depression and suicide. I did it to honor my son and help other cops. I was even able to write about the grace that unexpectedly came out of this horrible pain. It didn't make the pain go away, but it made things livable.

A few months before LeAnn died, I was in a spiritually dark period. I went to see Bernie and told him I couldn't pray. He told me that sometimes when we pray there is no resulting lightness or comfort, or sense of grace or sense of God's presence. I looked at him and said, "Yeah, that's me most of the time."

He smiled and said, "You're not the only one. It happens to me on a regular basis. Sometimes, all we can do is say the words, and the words count. That is still praying with integrity."

After LeAnn took her life, I'm back with Bernie, back in the horror and nightmare time, only this time also feeling like a freak, feeling like I want to climb into a hole, feeling that I don't want to let the world know I lost a second child, and feeling so empty, so not able to pray,

so sure there is no faith left in the tank.

He sits there and lets me get it all out. Then he looks at me and says, "You are living whatever faith you have by the suicide prevention work you are doing with cops and by your prison ministry work. The issue isn't faith."

And then he nails me: "And enough with the guilt! Feeling like a freak is another way to bury yourself in guilt. We went over this when John died. You did the best you could. And I told you before — guilt is not just unwarranted but it is a last, futile effort to remain in control, and you should know by now you are not in control!"

He passes me the Kleenex and quietly reminds me what he said a few months ago: "And as for praying, just say the words. Sometimes that's all we have are words."

Just say the words. That's pretty much all I do these days. Donna and I pray morning and evening prayers together and I do my own brief prayers. One is a prayer I got from a friend who died recently: "I take the entire mess and all the good and place it in the wounded hands of the Risen One."

Ron Rolheiser, in his brief but powerful *Bruised and Wounded: Struggling to Understand Suicide*, writes about John of the Cross and the dark night of the soul, and Mother Teresa's 50-year spiritual dry spell, but I can't relate....I'm the father of two children who committed suicide, and they're not.

But I hold on to Rolheiser's assurance: "God's love, unlike ours, can go through locked doors and touch what will not allow itself to be touched by us."

Rolheiser's words remind me that my son and my daughter, though gone from me in this life, are in God's loving presence in their new life. And therefore I'll keep praying, keep saying the words, especially on the days when I struggle to have even a tiny hint of God's presence and God's place in this fragile, chaotic world.

And in a time of heightened awareness of suicide ..., I'll begin to write about LeAnn, not just because I need to climb out of my hole, but also because suicide has to be talked about, because the myths and false impressions about suicide have to be combated, because the stigma about suicide has to be eliminated, and because I need to honor my daughter as I have honored my son. And I will try to wait for and remember those times of feeling that sense of lightness and comfort — even after John died — that sense of God's grace.

In the meantime, I'll keep saying the words.

[Brian Cahill retired in late 2008 as the executive director of San Francisco Catholic Charities after 40 years in social services. Since 2011, he has been a volunteer suicide prevention trainer for the San Francisco and San Jose police departments. He is also a volunteer in prison ministry at San Quentin.]