

First Sunday of Lent

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

THANKS AGAIN TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who were able to come to our Annual Appreciation Social Mardi Gras celebration last Saturday in Seton Auditorium. We know there were many other volunteers who were unable to attend the event, but we thank all of you as well. We hope everyone enjoyed the food and decorations, as well as the staff "artistic" works: Susan Olsen's dance and the staff's collaboration on "The Wizard of Whatever". The image of Fr. Matt praying for the perfect parish



and soon awakening to realize he *has* it won't soon leave our imaginations." Congratulations to Grace Lee, the first recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Ministry." Grace has volunteered in a myriad of capacities for a variety of pastors for 50 years! Ad multos anos, Grace!

REVS EKE OUT WIN OVER SEMS

The Revs eked out a last second win, 54-53, in the 7th Annual Revs vs. Sems basketball game last Friday night at the Leavey Center at Santa Clara University. With 5.6 seconds left on the clock, and the game tied 53-53 Fr. Matt (as referee) called a foul on a clearly-frustrated seminarian. Fr. Stasys Mikalonis (who used to help with Masses in our parish) stepped to the free-throw line: <clunk> went the first shot off the rim. <swish> went the second shot, and the score moved to 54-53. And the desperation last-second shot of the seminarians fell short! The Revs now lead the series 4-3. Thanks to all of you who attended to raise funds for the support of vocations! Hope to see many more next February! — Fr. Matt

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

THANK YOU FOR SHARING GOD'S GIFTS! 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



Our Weekly Offering

Feb 10: Actual: \$10,800 * Goal: \$11,000

encourage everyone to consider 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.



Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Norman Swope, Robert Kerrigan Sr., William McInerny, Fr. Thierry Geris, Douglas Hein, Consuelo Hernandez, Kathy Gibbs, Bill Todd, Lester Connolly, Lil Nguyen, Tom Kocal, Rochelle Ford, Gary Goodahl, Carl Bunje, Renee Thompson, Susan Fisher, Przemek Gardias, Ramona Stumpp, Jane Fitzgerald, Shui Yin Chiu



FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Gary Fazzino, Francis Tucker O'Brien, Marquerite Purcell, Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan, Maria Elida Fernandez, Margaret Quirolo, Fredrick Edward Conway, James Wrenn, George Kimm, Carol Lilledahl, John Braun

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, February 17:
 7:30 am STA... Marilyn Argenti †
 8:45 am STA... Frances Galea †
 9:00 am SAG ... Diane Ciardella †
 10:30 am OLR .. Elisabeth Quintero †
Readings: Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

Monday, February 18:
 8:30 am OLR ... Lil Nguyen (health)
Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 19:
 8:30 am OLR ... Maria Teresa Poggesi †
Readings: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 20:
 8:30 am OLR ... Jimmy Teresi †
Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, February 21: St. Peter Damian
 12:15 pm STA .. Delys Aranha †
Readings: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday, February 22:
 8:30 am OLR ... Paul Vavuris †
 12:15 pm STA .. Bob McNulty †
Readings: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Saturday, February 23: St. Polycarp
 5:00 pm SAG ... William Gretz Sr. †
Readings: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Sunday February 24, 2nd Sunday of Lent
 St. Albert the Great
 Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Stanley
 Sun 9:00 am Fr. Seimas
 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. Seimas
 Sun 12 noon TBD

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, February 17: First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election; Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending

7:45 am Hispanic Meet. (OLRH)

Monday, February 18: Presidents' Day, Pastoral Center Closed

7:00 pm Latin Class (TH)

7:00 pm Computer Class (OLRH)

Tuesday, February 19:

10:30 am TM Book Club (TH)

7:00 pm Hispanic Board Meet. (PC)

7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group (OLR)

7:00 pm Spirituality Tuesdays (SAGH)

7:30 pm Human Concerns (SAGH)

Wednesday, February 20:

10:00 am Adult Spirituality (PC)

6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)

7:30 pm Latin Circle (TH)

7:30 pm PSC (SAGH)

Thursday, February 21:

7:00 pm Centering Prayer (DC)

7:00 pm Hispanic First Comm. (PC)

7:00 pm Taize Prayer (STA)

Friday, February 22: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle; Abstinence; Washington's Birthday

7:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, February 23: Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sunset

8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)

10:00 am Lector In Service (OLRH)

10:30 am Baptism Class (PC)

PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY

Monday, February 18th, the Pastoral Center will be closed. Our daily Mass schedule is unchanged.

TAIZÉ PRAYER DURING LENT

The 3 pillars of Lent are prayer; fasting and almsgiving. Taizé Prayer is a time for connecting in joy and gratitude, nurturing the PRESENCE within.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church 7–8 pm, Thursday evenings during Lent: Feb 21, Feb 28, Mar 7, Mar 14. Come and be part of this universal uplifting of the heart to God and be filled with peace.

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAYS

February 19: Non-Canonical Gospels, and Other Books, Rejected by the Early Church: What they are and why they didn't make the cut. Our speaker: Dan Baer. Few people are aware of the dozens of Gospels, letters, and apocalyptic texts, written in the earliest centuries of Christianity. Many were rejected by the early Christian Church and excluded from the New Testament canon. Explore the criteria used by the early Church to determine which stories of Jesus and letters would be included in the Bible. In Saint Albert the Great Hospitality Room from 7:00 to 8:30 pm; refreshments will be served.

RITE OF ELECTION

It is fitting that on this First Sunday of Lent, the catechumens from our parish are sent to the Rite of Election by Bishop McGrath. At ceremonies in St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica this week, our Bishop will declare several hundred men, women, and children from throughout the Diocese to be our Elect, those chosen for the Easter Sacraments. Please keep all of the Elect in your prayers. They look to you for the support of your prayer, example and friendship. As they look forward to their baptism, look forward, too to the Easter renewal of your own baptismal promises.

"SHARING OUR FAITH — TOGETHER IN CHRIST"

ADA Goal: \$120,000 • Pledged: \$82,000 • Pledges: 182 • Ave Pledge: \$450 • % of Goal: 68% We are almost over 2/3 of the way to our goal! Thanks to the 39 gifts received last Sunday. So far 100 people have made pledges that were equal to their 2012 pledge. An amazing 43 people increased from 2012. 26 new people have pledged that were unable to pledge in 2012. With everyone's participation, we can meet and surpass our ADA goal; however, this will only be possible if every parish household participates according to their means. Payments can be made over the next 10 months. Visa, MasterCard, 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!

SECOND COLLECTION — THIS SUNDAY

"Christ is the light which illumines the way" (Blessed John Paul II). The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe illuminates the way for the people of the region by helping provide food, shelter, medical care, and compassion for the depressed and lonely, in addition to pastoral care and catechesis. Your donation helps reinforce the Christian ideals of charity, family values, and kindness in a place struggling in the aftermath of 70 years of atheistic Soviet rule. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections to learn more about the important projects funded by the Collection.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

When we think of Catholic Relief Services, we think of aid, education, and support to the poorest of the poor in our world. But did you know that CRS helps in our local community as well? Each year funds are distributed to local outreach organizations that are working to make a difference in the lives of people right here in Silicon Valley. Participating in Operation Rice Bowl is an easy way to help CRS continue to make a difference throughout the world and in our own local community. Each day of the 40 days of Lent, pray for the people CRS is helping with their services, fast a snack or a meal, and place the cost of that snack or meal in the rice bowl. Bring your full Rice Bowl back to church on Palm Sunday. A special collection will be taken that day.

February 17, 2013

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

No Sunday classes this week due to the Presidents' Day holiday. Classes will resume next Sunday at their usual times. Sacramental Preparation students meeting on Wednesday evenings will have their regular class on Wednesday, February 20 at 6 p.m. in the Dermody Center.

All children who are preparing for their First Eucharist this year will be receiving their First Reconciliation on either February 27 at Saint Albert the Great or on March 6 at Our Lady of the Rosary. The Reconciliation Service will begin at 5:30 on both occasions. Reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is required prior to receiving First Eucharist.

There will be a preparation session for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for children and their parents on Monday, February 25 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary. If you attended the session which was held at St. Albert the Great on February 11, you need not attend the session on the 25th.

PARENT CLASS — Our next parent class will be held on Sunday, March 3 during regular class times. All parents are encouraged to attend these sessions which are intended to help you connect to what your children are learning in their classes. As the primary "catechist" in your children's lives, these classes are an opportunity to dialogue with others and share and reflect on your own faith journey. Parents of those children preparing to receive the sacraments should make these classes a priority.

If you have questions about our faith formation program for children, please contact Susan at suolsen@dsj.org or at the Pastoral Center, 650-494-2496, ext. 25.

IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP FOR ALL LECTORS

All lectors (and anyone interested in the Lector ministry) are invited and encouraged to attend our annual Lector inservice workshop on February 23rd from 10:00am - 12:00pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall. We welcome Fr. Jose Rubio as our featured speaker. Please RSVP to Nora Lundin at nlundin@dsj.org or 650-494-2496 ext. 14.

EVERYBODY'S IRISH ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

We're only about a month away from Saturday, 03/16. This event is the longest-running event of the parish, entertaining for over a half-century! Join the following organizers for another successful program: *Christine Anaya, Ted Baer, Helen Baumann, Joe Kinsella*. Plan to attend, but also offer to help out. We need recruits: place setting set up/decorations, ticket sales, hospitality, bar, kitchen, Pot 'o Gold, clean up, including recycling. Be a part of the legacy in a leadership role. Ticket sales start Mar 2 - 3 through Mar 9 - 10 after Masses and at the Pastoral Center (\$15 - adults, \$5 - children under 12). Contact Joe Kinsella if interested to help out: 650-364-3705. Slainte!