

Second Sunday of Lent

TODAY'S MESSAGE

THE REWARDS OF GOING TO CONFESSION – God calls each of us to be reconciled to Him and to reconcile with others who are harmed by our sins. Catholics are blessed with the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation, one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church.

Confession of our sins to a priest and receiving absolution is a source of grace, leading to peace of mind and joy. While we do need to acknowledge that we are sinners, the focus of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is God's awesome mercy in Christ. This Sacrament celebrates and helps us notice in a particular way the reconciliation Christ won for us on the cross.

So why don't more Catholics take this opportunity to cleanse their hearts and souls and to clear the way to being in complete harmony with God? (As Catholics we are required to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation only if we have mortal sins to confess, though the Church asks us to celebrate the sacrament at least once a year.)

Why not take advantage of this incredible gift of forgiveness and spiritual liberation as often as possible? To strengthen us and help us to avoid the habit of sin and its effects, a good practice would be to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation two or three times a year. You will be rewarded. The Sacrament of Penance is available every Saturday in the parish, and during Lent and Advent at our Communal Penance Liturgies.

Jean Ramacciotti, OPL RCIA Coordinator

WHAT'S HAPPENING DURING LENT?

For information on many of our Parish Lenten activities, we included in last week's Bulletin a purple handout. Extra copies are available in the vestibule or visit our website. We ask that you keep this sheet in a handy place for future reference throughout these six weeks.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

What you commit to God's work here at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish will significantly impact our programs, ministries, services, staffing, buildings and grounds. May



Our Weekly Offering

Feb 17 Actual: TBA * Goal: \$11,000
 Church in East. & Central Europe TBA
 Ash Wednesday..... TBA

our good and generous God guide your We 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 McInerney, Fr. Thierry Geris, Douglas Hein, Consuelo Hernandez, Kathy Gibbs, Bill Todd, Lester Connelly, Lil Nguyen, Tom Kocal, Rochelle Ford, Gary Goodahl, Carl Bunje, Renee Thompson, Susan Fisher, Przemek Gardias, Ramona Stumpp, Jane Fitzgerald, Shui Yin Chiu, Joyce Braun, Alan Djornedoe

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 24:
 9:00 am SAG . . . Diane Ciardella †
 10:30 am OLR . . David Alfred Munoz †
Readings: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17 — 4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

Monday, February 25:
 7:15 am STA . . . Mary Baracchi & family †
 8:30 am OLR . . . All Souls in Purgatory
Readings: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday, February 26:
 8:30 am OLR . . . Halim Akar †
Readings: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday, February 27:
 8:30 am OLR . . . Carol Lilledahl †
Readings: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday, February 28:
 8:30 am OLR . . . Oscar Thompson †
 12:15 pm STA . . Msgr. William Lenane †
Readings: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday, March 1:
 7:15 am STA . . . Msgr. William Lenane †
 8:30 am OLR . . . Dec. members of Virginia Manzo's family †
 12:15 pm STA . . Patrick Coleman †
Readings: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday, March 2:
 5:00 pm SAG . . . Dolores Winans †
Readings: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Sunday March 3, 2nd Sunday of Lent

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 Msgr. Sandersfeld
 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. Seimas
 Sun 6:00 pm Youth Fr. Seimas

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, February 24: Second Sunday of Lent;
Penitential Rite for Candidates for Full
Communion

9:15 am Religious Ed. (OLR)
10:15 am Religious Ed. (SAG)
10:30 am Hispanic Catechesis (DC)
4:30 pm Edge (DC)
7:00 pm Lifeteen (DC)

Monday, February 25:

6:00 pm 1st Reconciliation Prep. (OLR)
7:00 pm RCIA (PC)
7:00 pm TMC Liturgy (PC)
7:30 pm Green Comm. (PC)

Tuesday, February 26:

7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group (OLR)
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus (DC)
7:00 pm Spirituality Tuesdays (SAGH)

Wednesday, February 27:

9:00 am Staff Recollection (OLR)
9:30 am Bldg. & Maint. (PC)
11:00 am SESS Development (SAGH)
5:30 pm 1st Reconciliation (SAG)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)

Thursday, February 28:

7:00 pm Centering Prayer (DC)
7:00 pm Hispanic First Comm. (PC)
7:00 pm Taize Prayer (STA)

Friday, March 1: World Day of Prayer; First
Friday; Abstinence

6:00 pm STAY Cool Night Lock In (DC)
7:00 pm Sp. Stations of the Cross (OLR)
7:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, March 2: First Saturday

8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)

TAIZÉ PRAYER DURING LENT

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 28, Mar 7, Mar 14. Come and be part of this universal uplifting of the heart to God and be filled with peace. What is unique to the prayer of Taizé is the adaptation of the repetitive form to simple musical lines and core biblical texts that can be sung by a whole assembly.

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAYS

Tuesday, Feb. 26: Forgiveness: The Healing Act with our speaker L. Susan Cabrera

Lent is a time to look deeper into ourselves; an opportunity to make profound conversions. The act of forgiving has been shown to promote psychological, spiritual and physical health. L. Susan Cabrera will discuss the concept of forgiveness. She will review what forgiveness is and what it is not, offer behavioral suggestions on how to approach forgiveness, share research results on the psychological effects of holding on to anger, and recount true stories of forgiveness. Forgiveness can bring inner peace. Please join us!

L. Susan Cabrera was born and raised in Palo Alto. She has two degrees from Stanford University, a bachelor's in English Literature and a master's in Counseling Psychology. Her fascinating and rewarding professional life has included working with a wide variety of individuals from heroin addicts to elected officials. She has held positions in human resources, clinical psychiatric research, education, and community relations. Author of multiple books, her pastimes include giving lectures and conducting seminars on psychological and spiritual topics such as forgiveness and maintaining balance in life.

RCIA THE ELECT

The four catechumens who signed The Book of the Elect at St. Albert the Great last Sunday are now called the Elect. They were sent from St. Albert to the cathedral where Bishop Daly accepted them to continue their path to the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Please keep them in your prayers during this period of Purification and Enlightenment in the RCIA process.

Today at Our Lady of the Rosary at 10:30am the seven candidates for Confirmation and/or Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church celebrate The Penitential Rite for the Already Baptized.

Left to right: Robert Foley, Corey Rogers, John Rogers, and Greg Todd.



MASS IN THANKSGIVING

Dear Friends, As we have all learned by now, Pope Benedict XVI will resign his office on Thursday evening, February 28. I invite you to a diocesan celebration of Mass in Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Pope Benedict XVI on Thursday, February 28, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph.

It is my hope that we of the Diocese of San Jose will mark this historic occasion in the way we mark all major events of our lives: gathering around the tables of the Lord's Word and of the Eucharist. For that reason, I would be grateful if this invitation were extended to all of the lay, religious and clergy of our local Church.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the 28th, and I pray that the Lord will bless us all in the holy season of Lent. With every best wish and kind regard, I remain, Sincerely Yours, *Patrick J. McGrath, Bishop of San Jose*

February 24, 2013

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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. 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. 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.

"SHARING OUR FAITH — TOGETHER IN CHRIST"

ADA Goal: \$120,000 • Pledged: \$85,110 • Pledges: 189

Ave. Pledge: \$452 • % of Goal: 71%

Our 4th report is incomplete, due to the Holiday; however, we did pass the 70% mark at the half-way point of this year's campaign. We need only 88 pledges of \$400 to meet our goal. 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. Remember, payments can be made over the next 10 months. Use your Visa or MasterCard, make an 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 Parish!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Homeless and living in poverty is a miserable situation for anyone to endure. If, in addition one has poor health, the misery is compounded. Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference encounters these situations regularly: Henry came to us in pain and walking with a great deal of difficulty. He had been in a motorcycle accident. He is scheduled to have a spinal fusion and two hip replacements. He is homeless and has been sleeping outside. We gave him a motel voucher so he could sleep in a bed & obtain some relief for his pain. The SVDP collection for February will be on February 24. Please remember people like Henry when the collection basket comes your way and give generously.