

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

### GOD'S MERCY & GOD'S JUSTICE

A typical contemporary version of God at first glance overly emphasizes his mercy so much that many dispense with justice. On closer examination, many believe that since no one really does any evil, no one has need of God's mercy either. In this conception, nothing really matters any more: petty and even gross selfishness acquire equal status with holiness and heroic love. This does not exalt God's mercy; it belittles it. Of course, nobody really wants a God without justice. We don't actually want Hitler or a serial offender to receive the same treatment as Grandma or Mother Teresa.

Our problem is that we think about God, not from the platform of the gospel, but from the viewpoint of our vacuous and soft-headed culture. Only God can explain himself to us; he has done so with his revelation, entrusted to the Church. The fourth week of Lent is a great time to continue, even increase our serious spiritual reading, well-rooted in sound Catholic tradition, which will help us grow in the knowledge of God and of his saving love, inspiring an increase in our love for God and others.

If we understood God's love, and how we separate ourselves from it by sinning, we would weep as bitterly as the exiles in Babylon. God cannot oblige us to seek the light, for he cannot simultaneously create us as creatures that are free and not. However, he does not want us to have to weep; Christ being raised up on the cross before us constitutes the ultimate effort of his love, his ultimate appeal to our free response to his love. The vision of Jesus crucified for our sins is the antidote that, like the Israelites bitten by the serpents, every generation of Christians has found the poison of selfishness and sin. We may find praying the Stations of the Cross at least once a week until Easter to be a great way to remedy our tendencies.

Fr. Peter

## 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 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.



### Our Weekly Offering

Feb 24: Actual: \$10,900 \* Goal: \$11,000  
Mar 3: Actual: \$11,500 \* Goal: \$11,000  
St. Vincent de Paul: \$4,800



### Please Pray

FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND — Norman Swope, Robert Kerrigan Sr., William McInerney, Fr. Thierry Geris, Douglas Hein, Consuelo Hernandez, Kathy Gibbs, Lester Connelly, Lil Nguyen, Gary Goodahl, Carl Bunje, Renee Thompson, Susan Fisher, Przemek Gardias, Ramona Stumpp, Jane Fitzgerald, Shui Yin Chiu, Alan Djornedoe, Teresa Marovich

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Gary Fazzino, Francis Tucker OBrien, Marguerite Purcell, Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan, Maria Elida Fernandez, Margaret Quirolo, Fredrick Edward Conway, James Wrenn, George Kimm, Carol Lilledahl, John Braun, Aniela Bozynski, Bill Todd

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, March 10:

8:45 am STA. . . . Adolph Canelo †  
10:30 am OLR . . . George Kimm †  
Readings: *Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32* Alternate readings (Year A): *1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]*

Monday, March 11:

7:15 am STA. . . . Mary Baracchi & family †  
12:15 pm STA . . . Joseph Schembri †  
Readings: *Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54*

Tuesday, March 12:

8:30 am OLR . . . Frank M. Briggs †  
Readings: *Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16*

Wednesday, March 13:

8:30 am OLR . . . Frank M. Briggs †  
12:15 pm STA . . . Winnie Menezes †  
Readings: *Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30*

Thursday, March 14:

7:15 am STA. . . . James & Edith Dubbs †  
Readings: *Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47*

Friday, March 15:

7:15 am STA. . . . Msgr. William Lenane †  
8:30 am OLR . . . Eileen Fitzgerald †  
12:15 pm STA . . . Lee Fannen †  
Readings: *Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30*

Saturday, March 16:

12:15 pm STA . . . James & Mary Roddy †  
5:00 pm SAG . . . Margaret Finnerty Quirolo †  
Readings: *Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53*

## PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Fifth Sunday of Lent — March 17, 2013

St. Albert the Great  
Sat 5:00 pm . . . . . Fr. Valenton  
Sun 9:00 am . . . . . TBD  
Sun 11:00 am . . . . . Fr. Hernandez

St. Thomas Aquinas  
Sun 7:30 am . . . . . Fr. Hester  
Sun 8:45 am . . . . . Fr. Rubio  
Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Rubio  
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. Miller

# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 10: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny; Daylight Saving Time begins; Girl Scout Sunday  
9:15 am ..... Rel. Ed. (ISP)  
10:00 am .... SAG Site Comm. (SAGH)  
10:15 am .... Rel. Ed. (SESA)  
10:30 am .... Hispanic Catechesis (DC)  
4:30 pm ..... EDGE (DC)  
7:00 pm ..... Lifeteen (DC)

Monday, March 11:  
7:00 pm ..... Hispanic Catechesis (PC)  
7:00 pm ..... RCIA (PC)  
7:00 pm ..... TMC Liturgy (TH)

Tuesday, March 12:  
6:00 pm ..... Hisp. Baptismal Class (PC)  
7:00 pm ..... Hispanic Prayer (OLR)  
7:00 pm ..... Knights of Columbus (DC)  
7:00 pm ..... Spirituality Tuesdays (SAGH)

Wednesday, March 13:  
11:00 pm .... SESS Dev. (SAGH)  
5:30 pm ..... RCIA for Children (DC)  
6:00 pm ..... SOUP (OLRH)  
6:30 pm ..... STA PSC (SAGH)  
7:15 pm ..... Catechists (DC)

Thursday, March 14:  
6:30 pm ..... Taize Prayer (STA)  
7:00 pm ..... Centering Prayer (DC)  
7:00 pm ..... Hisp. 1st Comm. (PC)  
7:00 pm ..... STA Site Comm. (TH)  
7:30 pm ..... TMC (TH)

Friday, March 15: Abstinence  
9:00 am ..... Stations of the Cross (OLR)  
6:00 pm ..... Friday Night Lights (DC)  
7:00 pm ..... Sp. Way of the Cross (OLR)  
7:30 pm ..... Hisp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, March 16:  
8:00 am ..... Environment Team (OLR)  
10:00 am .... Oneight (DC)  
6:00 pm ..... St. Patrick's Event (SESS)

## FR. PETER OFF HIS FEET

Fr. Peter broke his foot last week and will be out of pastoral commission for several weeks. We are securing additional priests to cover his Masses. We may see a few new faces over the next few weeks. We pray for a speedy recovery for Fr. Peter.

## 2013 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

ADA Goal: \$120,000 • Pledged: \$108,000 • Pledges: 246 • Ave Pledge: \$440 • % of Goal: 90  
Week 6 pushed us over the 90% mark. Our thanks to the 19 pledges received this past weekend. We need only 30 more pledges of \$400 to push us over the top by Palm Sunday! 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. 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 our St. Thomas Aquinas and our always plentiful un-budgeted repairs to our buildings and grounds!

## DEANERY II – LENTEN PENANCE LITURGIES

St. Joseph (Mountain View) ..... March 12 at 7:00pm *English/Spanish*  
St. Athanasius (Mountain View) .. March 12 at 7:30pm *English/Spanish*  
St. Nicholas (Los Altos) ..... March 13 at 3:30pm  
St. William (Los Altos) ..... March 13 at 7:00pm  
St. Simon (Los Altos) ..... March 18 at 3:30pm & 7:00pm  
St. Albert the Great ..... March 18 at 7:00pm  
Our Lady of the Rosary ..... March 25 at 7:00pm *English/Spanish*

## SPIRITUALITY TUESDAY ASSEMBLY

March 12th Medical Ethics/End of Life Issues – Special guest speaker, Fr. Jerry Coleman is a lecturer in Moral Theology at Santa Clara University. He will address fundamental questions concerning end-of-life issues: What is a correct definition of human life? Is human life temporary? When can medical treatment be withheld or withdrawn? What is physician-assisted suicide? What is the value of having an Advanced Directive? Fr. Coleman received his Master of Divinity from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, his Master of Arts degree from the University of San Francisco, his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, and his S.T.L. (Licentiate of Sacred Theology) from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. In St. Albert the Great Hospitality Room 7:00 – 8:30 pm; refreshments will be served.

## HOTEL DE ZINK

St. Thomas parish will be bringing food for the homeless at the Church of Christ on Middlefield Rd. from April 15th-30th. I will be signing folks after Mass during the month of March. Please check your April calendar and see what day would be convenient for you to help. Thanks, Ruth Chippendale 856 6350

## SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY – CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE

The Catholic Relief Services Collection enacts Jesus' message of caring for the least of our brothers and sisters through providing humanitarian aid and ongoing resources. This collection provides an opportunity for Catholics in the United States to help suffering families around the world. Recent collection funds have helped CRS establish water programs in 40 countries around the world. In East Africa, for example, where a terrible drought sent millions from their homes in search of food and water, some farmers in Ethiopia stayed home. Their thriving crops and livestock needed tending. Long before the drought struck, CRS built more than 700 water sources that provide clean water to 2.1 million people there.

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# March 10, 2013

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## SCRUTINIES WITH THE ELECT

Over the next two weekends, the Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent on March 17 & 24 at the 9:00 am Mass at St. Albert the Great, we will celebrate the rites of penance and purification with our 4 elect who are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. The purpose of these rites is to uncover all that would lead them away from Christ, so that they might be able to come to a full Christian life. The support of a parish community is vital to this process. At the same time, these brief rites call us, the baptized, to uproot the sin in our lives so as to be more faithful to our own baptism. We will be using Cycle A Readings.

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Catechists Are Invited: All catechists are invited to gather to share and reflect on the work we are doing with the children of the parish on Wednesday, March 13 at 7:15 p.m. in the Dermody Center. As we move into the last two months of classes for this year, it is important that we come together to discuss the remainder of the year and begin to look forward to the future. If you have questions about our faith formation program for children, please contact Susan at [suolsen@dsj.org](mailto:suolsen@dsj.org) or at the Pastoral Center, 650-494-2496, ext. 25.

## MARCH 26TH: ANNUAL PARISH SEDER DINNER

Enjoy a traditional Seder lamb dinner, Scripture readings and an explanation of the Passover Feast, Tuesday March 26th at 6:30 pm, in Our Lady of the Rosary Hall. The dinner cost is \$10 and any additional donations will be sent to Father Jack Donald, who grew up in our parish and is a missionary in Honduras. All donations, and meal costs, are paid at the door. Everyone is welcome! Reserve your place at the table by calling Sandra at the Pastoral Center (650-494-2496) or Laurie 650-494-3572 or by email: [Jeanne@ramos.be](mailto:Jeanne@ramos.be)

## ST. PAT'S EVENT TICKETS DISAPPEARING LIKE CLOVERS

Less than a week to go before our annual evening of parish welcoming and Irish hospitality: Saturday night, March 16th, at the St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium. The program should be the best ever: live ceili band, two different dance groups to demonstrate the variety of gaelic footwork, sing-alongs ("Danny Boy", of course), and the best corned beef dinner on the peninsula. This is a legacy event for seniors and for families who want an inexpensive, safe, and fun night out – priced to encourage participation: \$15 adults, \$5 wee ones under 12. Get your tickets after Mass or at the Pastoral Center during the week. Better call first – to ensure if any are left for this sell-out event. Want to volunteer? Call Joe Kinsella: 364-3705.