

Fifth Sunday of Lent

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

COUNTING THE DAYS— Prior to the reform of the liturgy, the Fifth Sunday of Lent was called Passion Sunday and ushered in a two-week period called "Passiontide." These two weeks before Easter were marked by a liturgy whose tone was somber and severe. All statues and crucifixes were veiled with purple cloth (a tradition we are re-introducing at St. Albert the Great) that was removed at the Easter Vigil (save for the crucifix, which was uncovered as part of the Good Friday liturgy.) These external observances were viewed as signs of penitential preparation for Easter.

The present reform, however, is a return to an older tradition in which initiation and reconciliation were the primary ways that communities observed Lent as they prepared for Easter (the 3rd Scrutiny for our elect takes place today, and our Penitential Liturgies will be on the next two Mondays). These communal observances of Lent stressed sacramental celebrations, rather than external and ceremonial details.

Today's Sunday is called the Fifth Sunday of Lent and the term Passion Sunday is given to next Sunday, formerly called Palm Sunday. This shift reflects the fact that one of the synoptic accounts of the passion of our Lord is proclaimed next Sunday. Both our Scrutiny Gospel, the Raising of Lazarus, and the Cycle C Gospel, the woman caught in adultery, turn our attention toward the death and resurrection in preparation for the commencement of Holy Week next Sunday.

Fr. Matt

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

THANK YOU FOR SHARING GOD'S GIFTS! Thank you to everyone who supported the mission and ministries of our parish during the month of February. Our average weekly collection for the 8th month of this new fiscal year was \$10,597 (\$10,556 in 2012). We are less than 3% behind our prior fiscal year weekly offering. Our budget for Jul – Feb was \$374,000; our actual is \$344,000 (\$30,000 shortfall). Did you know that \$30,000 is about 4 months worth of our entire parish utilities bill? 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

Mar 10: Actual: \$10,700 * Goal: \$11,000
St. Elizabeth Seton School: \$2,750



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, Teresa Marovich, Pat O'Riordan

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, Alan Djornedoe

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, March 17:

8:45 am STA. . . . Adolph Canelo †
9:00 am SAG . . . Frank M. Briggs †
10:30 am OLR . . . George Kimm †
6:00 pm OLR . . . June Webb †
Readings: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14;
Jn 8:1-11 Alternate readings (Year A):
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Monday, March 18: St. Cyril of Jerusalem
7:15 am STA. . . . Mary Baracchi & family †
8:30 am OLR . . . Eileen Fitzgerald †
12:15 pm STA . . . Katoko Sax †
Readings: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday, March 19: St. Joseph
8:30 am OLR . . . Ann Vellurattil †
12:15 pm STA . . . Josephine Santiago (thanksgiving)
Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday, March 20:
8:30 am OLR . . . Holy Souls in Purgatory
Readings: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, March 21:
12:15 pm STA . . . Delsy Aranha †
Readings: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday, March 22:
7:15 am STA. . . . Msgr. William Lenane †
12:15 pm STA . . . Angelo DeLucha †
Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, March 23: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo
12:15 pm STA . . . Manzo, Patino & Ochoa family special intention
5:00 pm SAG . . . Inez Sequeira †
Readings: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday — March 24, 2013

St. Albert the Great
Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Seimas
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Valenton
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. Stanley
Sun 12 noon TBD

Our Lady of the Rosary
Sun 8:30 am Fr. Gammad
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Seimas
Sun 6:00 pm Youth Fr. Stanley

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent;
Third Scrutiny; St. Patrick's Day
9:15 am Rel. Ed. (ISP)
10:15 am Rel. Ed. (SESA)
10:30 am Hispanic Catechesis (DC)
4:30 pm EDGE (DC)
7:00 pm Lifeteen (DC)

Monday, March 18:
10:30 am TM Book Club (TH)
7:00 pm Latin Class (TH)
7:00 pm Lenten Penance (SAG)

Tuesday, March 19:
7:00 pm Hispanic Board Mtg (PC)
7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer (OLR)
No Spirituality Tuesday this week

Wednesday, March 20: Spring begins
10:00 am Adult Spirituality (PC)
6:00 pm RCIA for Children (DC)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:00 pm STA Remodeling (TH)
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (SAG)
7:15 pm Human Concerns (OLRH)
7:30 pm Latin Circle (TH)

Thursday, March 21:
6:30 pm Taize Prayer (STA)
7:00 pm Centering Prayer (DC)
7:00 pm Hisp. 1st Comm. (PC)
7:30 pm STA Remodeling (TH)

Friday, March 22: Abstinence
9:00 am Stations of the Cross (OLR)
7:00 pm Sp. Way of the Cross (OLR)
7:30 pm Hisp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, March 23:
8:00 am Environment Team (OLR)
9:00 am RCIA Retreat (SAGH)
10:00 am Oneight (OLR)

PALM SUNDAY (PASSION SUNDAY)

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, March 24th. Each Mass will begin with the blessing of palms outside the main entrance of our churches. You should plan on arriving early so as to help alleviate the parking and traffic problems. As always, please observe the "no parking" zones, as these are marked to allow for access by emergency vehicles.

2013 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

ADA Goal: \$120,000 • Pledged: \$111,000 • Pledges: 259 • Average Pledge: \$430 • 93% of Goal
Week 7 barely nudged us forward toward our goal. We need a very strong finish in order to reach \$120,000 by Palm Sunday. We have much hope due to the fact that over 160 families have not yet pledged, although they have made pledges in the past. We need only 25 more pledges of \$400 to push us over the top! An amazing 58 people increased their 2012 pledge! The best news is 40 people pledged this year who 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. 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!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The call to conversion and reconciliation is central to Lent. It is the Church's desire that all Catholics celebrate this sacrament prior to our entry into the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday from 11:30 am – 12:00 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas & 4:15 pm – 4:45 pm at St. Albert the Great. We will have 2 Lenten Penance Liturgies on Monday, March 18 at 7:00 pm at St. Albert the Great & Monday, March 25 at 7:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesday March 20th — No Spirituality Tuesday this week. Join us as we pray one of the most popular of Catholic Lenten devotions: The Stations of the Cross. We are pilgrims, in spirit, as we witness, and pray, at the scene of Christ's Passion in Jerusalem. This is a prayer tradition which dates back to the time of Constantine. There were many variations but the familiar "14 stations" became set in 1729. Feel the intensity as we accompany Him on His journey. Saint Albert the Great Church, 7:00 pm

NEW MINISTERS NEEDED FOR PASTORAL HOME MINISTRY

We are in need of ministers to bring communion to individuals at home and at nursing care facilities. We also need ministers for communion services at retirement and nursing homes. Many of our ministers have retired due to age and health issues. Please consider joining this fulfilling ministry. If interested, please contact us at the Pastoral Center or call Mary Fong/Pat Dietrich directly.

ALMSGIVING – A LENTEN JOY

Next weekend, March 24th, we will collect your Lenten offerings which many of you having been saving toward Operation Rice Bowl. Your generosity toward the work of Catholic Relief Services and the knowledge that you are helping so many in need is its own reward. So, please remember to bring your donations to Mass next weekend. They will be accepted in a special second collection.

EASTER FLOWERS

Remembering a loved one during Easter is always foremost in our minds. So why not express that love by making a donation toward the Easter flowers as special intention or in memory of a deceased family member or friend? Special Easter Flower envelopes can be found in the pews.

March 17, 2013

HOTEL DE ZINK

St. Thomas Aquinas 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.

WOMEN OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

You are cordially invited to join us for Holy Family Women's annual retreat which will be held at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos on the weekend of April 12-14, 2013. The theme for this year's retreat is "RETURN....." Allow yourself this time for prayer, reflection, and focus on your relationship with God while building your relationship with your Sisters in Christ. All women of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to take some time to focus on God at this wonderful retreat center. Mark your calendars and register now for the Women's Retreat. Registration forms are available in the vestibules at OLR & SAG, in the Pastoral Center, as well as online at www.holyfamilysanjose.org. If you have any questions, please contact Susan in the Pastoral Center or at suolsen@dsj.org.

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

A HEARTFELT "GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT"

Appreciative regards to all the parishioners who contributed to the enjoyment of last Saturday's evening of Irish culture and parish hospitality. Particular thanks go to the team of organizers and to the many volunteers who made it happen, particularly the bar and kitchen crews. A special note goes to Carol Pulliam, baker of the many loaves of tasty Soda Bread. Another shout-out to Century Liquors for ensuring the attentive bar service – both delivery and pick-up. "Banish the Dogs" and the dancers from Sondra Greene's school and from the United Irish Cultural Center put lively jig in our steps. Most importantly, thanks to the many parishioners who attended for their participation and financial support to meet the event's main goal: outreach welcoming to honor the traditions of the parish and to provide an evening of fun.