

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

DIVINE PASSION ~ HUMAN SUFFERING — The central theme of the three readings on Passion (Palm) Sunday is one of human suffering— unquestionably raising some of life’s most difficult questions. Nobody escapes suffering and when it hits us personally, the first question we ask is: “Why?”

In many biblical texts “suffering” is described as a “punishment for sin.” How many times did we hear from our parents or elders after an act of defiance or disobedience: “See, that’s why God’s punishing you.” The scripture texts, however, attempt to free us from such understandings by forcing us to reflect on the suffering of the innocent.

Isaiah describes a servant who suffers because of his faithfulness. St. Paul tells us that Jesus suffered and died in total freedom in obedience to the will of His Father. The Evangelist, St. Mark, recounts for us the events of the Last Supper in the opening of his Passion Narrative, teaching us that the suffering and death of the innocent Jesus is for the salvation of all. We, thus, learn that suffering has redemptive value.

The Liturgy of Passion Sunday prepares us well for our entrance into Holy Week which reaches its culmination in the Easter Triduum. These Three Days begin with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper and reaches its highpoint in the Easter Vigil, the night when Christ rose from the dead. We invite you to join with us in the holy feast we celebrate. Let us glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for He is our salvation, our life and our resurrection.

—Fr. Matt

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.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

THANK YOU FOR SHARING GOD’S GIFTS! 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 good and generous God guide your We encourage everyone to consider using the Sunday Offertory

 **Our Weekly Offering**
Mar 17: Actual: TBA * Goal: \$11,000

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 & 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 24:

Readings: Lk 19:28-40 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 — 23:56 [23:1-49]

Monday, March 25:

7:15 am STA. . . . Arlen Hagen (birthday)
Readings: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26:

Readings: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday, March 27:

8:30 am OLR . . . John McGannon †
12:15 pm STA . . . Percy & Delsy Aranha †
Readings: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25

Thursday, March 28:

Readings: *Chirm Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21*
Lord’s Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

Friday, March 29:

Readings: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42

Saturday, March 30:

Readings: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11; g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Lk 24:1-12

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Easter Sunday — March 31, 2013

St. Albert the Great
Sat 8:30 pm Easter Vigil Fr. Stanley,
Fr. Valenton, 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 9:00 am Fr. Gammad
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Seimas

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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 25: Monday of Holy Week; Passover begins

7:00 pm Lenten Penance (SAG)

7:00 pm TMC Liturgy (TH)

7:30 pm Green Committee (PC)

Tuesday, March 26: Tuesday of Holy Week

6:30 pm Seder Dinner (OLRH)

7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group (OLR)

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus (DC)

Wednesday, March 27: Wednesday of Holy Week

9:30 am Bldg & Maint. (PC)

6:00 pm RCIA for Children (DC)

Thursday, March 28: Holy Thursday; The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Friday, March 29: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday); Fast and Abstinence; Pastoral Center Closed

7:00 pm Sp. Way of the Cross (OLR)

Saturday, March 30: Holy Saturday; The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

8:15 am Environment Team (OLR)

8:30 am Morning Prayer (OLR)

ANNUAL 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. Reserve by calling Sandra at the Pastoral Center (650-494-2496) or Laurie 650-494-3572 or by email: Jeanne@ramos.be

CAN YOU HELP?

Ride needed for lady who lives on Clara Dr. for the 10:30 mass at OLR. This is just to substitute for regular driver when she is on vacation or unable to drive. Please contact Mary at 650-494-1660 if you can help.

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!

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 29, at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. This year's stations will be presented with movement, music, scripture and reflection. Susan Olsen, our Catechetical Coordinator for Children's Ministries, has developed a "Living Stations of the Cross" in which the image of each station is depicted by people forming a "picture" of the station in life-size, three dimensional form. Scripture is shared with a brief reflection, and the community is invited to respond in song. To set the scene and draw the community into the experience, the service begins with a movement prayer in which the entirety of the Stations is presented to the music of Samuel Barber's "Adagio." The movement prayer is then followed by the stations themselves. As always, the service will conclude with an opportunity for veneration of the cross. On this most holy day on which we remember the passion and death of our Lord, please join us as we take you to Jerusalem to make this walk with Jesus.

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.

NEW PASTORAL HOME MINISTERS NEEDED

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.

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 25 at 7:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary.

March 24, 2013

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH EASTER SCHEDULE

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY – March 28

7:30 pm - Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Our Lady of the Rosary (Bilingual)

9:00 pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Night Prayer

Our Lady of the Rosary Hall

8:00 pm – Thursday of the Lord's Supper St. Thomas Aquinas

Church (Gregorian)

GOOD FRIDAY – March 29

Good Friday Morning Prayer – 8:30 am at Our Lady of the Rosary

Good Friday Private Prayer – 8:00 am-8:00 pm at St. Albert the Great

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Liturgy of the Word - Adoration of the Holy Cross - Holy Communion

12:00 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas

5:30 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas (Gregorian)

7:30 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary (Spanish)

Living Stations of the Cross & Adoration of the Holy Cross

3:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary

Holy Friday Vespers

7:30 pm St. Albert the Great (Byzantine)

HOLY SATURDAY – March 30

Holy Saturday Morning Prayer – 8:30 am at Our Lady of the

Rosary No Morning or Afternoon Liturgies

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT – March 30

8:00 pm – St. Albert the Great Church

Lucernarium, Liturgies of the Word, Initiation, and Eucharist

(Gather in parking lot behind Rectory)

11:00 pm – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night – St. Thomas

Aquinas Church (Gregorian)

EASTER SUNDAY – March 31

9:00 am at St. Albert the Great

7:30 am, 8:45 am, 10:30 am & 12:00 pm (Gregorian)

at St. Thomas Aquinas

9:00 am (Spanish) & 10:30 am at Our Lady of the Rosary

NO 6:00 pm Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

On April 4 the Widow and Widowers will be meeting at the Crowne Plaza on El Camino in Palo Alto at 5:00 for cocktails and 5:30 for dinner. The earlybird menu includes soup/salad, choice of chicken, beef or fish, coffee and dessert. The price including tax and tip is \$20.00. Please contact Irene at evergreen54@juno.com or 650-485-9161 by March 28th.