

Fifth Sunday of Easter

TODAY'S MESSAGE

FIRST COMMUNIONS - THE SACRAMENT ANEW FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL

Think back to that day when you received Holy Communion for the very first time. It was no doubt a very special time in your life. If you were a child raised in the Catholic tradition, it was likely a time of much celebration with family and friends; a time for brand new clothing, a big party, maybe even with gifts, and lots of attention paid to you because for the very first time, you were joining the family and community at the Table of the Eucharist.

In some ways I am among the fortunate ones because I did not celebrate my First Holy Communion until I was well into my adulthood and remember the experience well. For many, many years, I watched enviously as others around me went forward to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus while I prayed quietly, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart in spiritual communion." Finally being able to join my family of faith at the Eucharistic Table was a meaningful and life-giving moment I will cherish forever.

Approximately 60 of our young people, ages 7 to 11, have received the Body & Blood of Christ for the first time on April 21 at Our Lady of the Rosary and on April 28 at St. Albert the Great. They have worked hard over the past year to prepare themselves for this special time in their lives, and I know they eagerly look forward to that moment when they will be able to join the rest of the community in the Eucharistic Banquet. They will stand before the community and joyfully proclaim their faith and then take their rightful place with us at the Lord's Table.

As we witness these beautiful children of God sharing in this Sacrament for the first time, let us join with them and re-embrace Eucharist as the amazing and miraculous gift that it is for each of us. At each and every Mass, a miracle happens, and Jesus becomes fully present to us. He is there in the gathered assembly, in the Word that is proclaimed, in the person of the priest who presides *in persona Christe*, and, most importantly, in the bread and wine that become His Most Holy Body and Precious Blood. This is what Jesus asked us to do. Let us not take this amazing miracle for granted, but embrace it with a newness of heart and re-commitment to our faith.

Susan Lee Olsen, Catechetical Coordinator for Children's Ministries

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Easter is a season of joyful giving. We deeply appreciate the joyful giving of so many of our parishioners who share with us in abundance their time, talent, and treasure. Help us keep this Easter joy alive at St. Thomas Aquinas all year long by practicing good

 **Our Weekly Offering**
April 21: \$11,000.00... Goal: \$9,500.00

stewardship. We encourage everyone to consider giving to the Lord the "first fruits" of the "treasure" you have received. Stewards know themselves to be both recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts.

Please Pray

FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND — Norman Swope, Robert Kerrigan Sr., William McInerney, Fr. Thierry Geris, Douglas Hein, Consuelo Hernandez, Lester Connelly, Lil Nguyen, Gary Goodahl, Carl Bunje, Renee Thompson, Susan Fisher, Przemek Gardias, Ramona Stumpp, Jane Fitzgerald, Shui Yin Chiu, Pat O'Riordan, Jean Ramacciotti

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Margaret Quirolo, Fredrick Edward Conway, James Wrenn, George Kimm, Carol Lilledahl, John Braun, Aniela Bozynski, Bill Todd, Alan Djornedoe, Milagros Fontanilla Antonio, Julie Lewis, Lee Sault, Robert E. Park

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, April 28:

8:45 am STA... Adolph Canelo †

10:30 am STA... Suzanne Beaver †

10:30 am OLR... Bob Franklin (birthday)

Readings: Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Monday, April 29: St. Catherine of Siena

7:15 am STA... Mary Baracchi & family †

8:30 am OLR... All Holy Souls †

Readings: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday, April 30: St. Pius V

8:30 am OLR... Norman Kocikowski †

Readings: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 1: St. Joseph the Worker

8:30 am OLR... Rosa Colozzo †

Readings: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8 or (for memorial) Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58

Thursday, May 2: St. Athanasius

8:30 am OLR... Ochoa and Manzo dec. family members †

Readings: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11

Friday, May 3: Ss. Philip and James

7:15 am STA... Msgr. William Lenane †

8:30 am OLR... Hong Lee †

Readings: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14

Saturday, May 4:

5:00 pm SAG... Scholz family (thanksgiving)

Readings: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Sixth Sunday of Easter — May 5, 2013

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 Msgr. Sandersfeld

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Seimas

Sun 12 noon TBA

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, April 28: Fifth Sunday of Easter
9:15 am Rel. Ed. (OLR/ISP)
10:30 am Hispanic Catechesis (DC)
11:00 am 1st Communion Reception (SAGH)
4:30 pm Edge (DC)
7:00 pm Lifeteen (DC)

Monday, April 29:

Tuesday, April 30:

7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group (OLR)
7:00 pm Spirituality Tuesdays (SAGH)

Wednesday, May 1:

10:00 am Adult Spirituality (PC)
4:00 pm Liturgy Reading (TH)
6:00 pm RCIA for Children (DC)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:00 pm Community Life (PC)
7:30 pm Latin Circle (TH)

Thursday, May 2: National Day of Prayer

7:00 pm Centering Prayer (DC)
7:30 pm Hispanic 1st Comm. Cat. (PC)

Friday, May 3: First Friday

7:00 pm Adoration (OLR)
7:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, May 4: First Saturday

8:15 am Environment Team (OLR)
10:00 am One Day Get Away (DC)
10:30 am Baptism Class (PC)
2:00 pm Pastoral Home Ministry (PC)

MAY FETE

Confessions at 11:30 am, and Mass at 12:15 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas Church will be cancelled on Saturday, May 4th, due to the Palo Alto May Fete Parade and blocked streets in the immediate area around St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

APRIL ADA UPDATE

Sharing Our Faith – Together in Christ
ADA Goal: \$120,000
Pledged: \$135,000
Pledged: 318 • % of Goal: 112%

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAYS

April 30th: So Many Faces of Mary with guest speaker: Michael Gray. The Blessed Virgin Mary has many titles, feasts and devotions. Tuesday, April 30th, Michael Gray, who celebrated his seminary student pastoral year with us last year, will share the origin and history of some of the lesser known names used in devotion to Mary. He will talk about the Litany of Loreto and its broad list of names of Mary, plus places connected to the United States by specific Marian devotion. There are so many titles of Mary; bring your questions and join us for a very special evening. Saint Albert the Great Hospitality Room from 7:00-8:30 pm.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL – THIS SUNDAY

One way this national collection works is to support home missions in the United States by supporting seminarian formation in poor dioceses. Often home mission priests and lay ministers require special training to attend to the unique needs of their faith communities. Your support is needed. Please help strengthen the Church at home by making a generous gift to next week's Appeal.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Next Sunday, May 5th, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at all of our Sunday Masses. Who can be anointed? The anointing is for all those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age, is suffering from a chronic illness, a terminal disease, is an elderly individual that age is causing a decline in their health, or is suffering from emotional, physical or psychological distress. As a community of believers, we come together to pray for, to support and be strengthened in Jesus' gift of healing: the Sacrament of the Sick. If you or someone you know desires to be healed, this Sacrament can be a great beginning to becoming whole and healed in whatever way God intends.

COME SMELL THE ROSES

All Parishioners, especially Newcomers to the Parish, are invited to help celebrate the Pastoral Garden's 20th anniversary! Sunday, May 5th, at the Pastoral Garden from 2:00-3:30 pm. Come meet and mingle and enjoy an afternoon of conversation, tasty snacks, iced tea and lemonade. The Garden began in 1993, when Fr. Brown was our Pastor, as the vision of parishioner Arlen Hagan. The unique bowling ball rosary was suggested by Ed Paczkowski. It is a must see! Arlen continues to maintain the garden but would love some volunteers to join him. The garden is located behind the Pastoral Center at 3290 Middlefield Road. We will have balloons marking the driveway from Middlefield to the garden. You can also find the Garden from Our Lady of the Rosary Church driveway to the Dermody Center (behind Our Lady of the Rosary Church). We will postpone our event if the day is rainy.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

We continue with our regular classes on Sunday, May 5. Also on May 5, all parents are invited to the last of our parent classes for the year during the regular class times. You are encouraged to make this a priority as we approach the end of our catechetical year. Help us to help you fulfill your mission as your children's primary catechists.

We are also beginning registration for next year's classes. All currently enrolled families are encouraged to register now for next year's classes. Anyone not currently participating in our STA-Kids Faith Formation is also invited to join us in the new year. Fall classes will begin at the end of August.

April 28, 2013

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

All fourth and fifth graders who are interested in training to be Altar Servers at St. Albert the Great, are invited to instruction classes on Friday, May 3rd from 3:00 - 5:00 pm and Saturday, May 4th from 3:00 - 5:00 pm in the St. Albert the Great Church. Please call Nora Lundin at the Pastoral Center, 650-494-2496, if your child is interested but cannot attend these training dates.

PASTORAL HOME MINISTRY

There will be a Pastoral Home Ministry Meeting on Saturday, May 4 at 2:00-4:00 pm at the Pastoral Center, on Middlefield Rd. This is the time for ministers to touch base with each other, meet new members and share their experiences. The coordinators will update everyone on recent issues. All ministers are asked to attend. Anyone interested in joining the ministry are welcome to come. For more information contact Pat/Mary at 494-2496 X22

BIKE TO MASS

May is Bike-to-Work month nationally and all 9 Bay Area Counties are celebrating Bike-to-Work Day on May 9th. Our parish Bike-to-Mass Day is May 5th! Reasons to bike to work/ Mass: (All are equally true of walking to mass!)

- Have fun!
- Save money on gas and car maintenance
- Improve physical fitness
- Burn calories
- Feel better/ more relaxed/ awake
- Reduce the production of air pollutants that impact human health
- Reduce the production of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change

There are bike racks at all three parish sites. Try biking or walking to mass on May 5th; you may discover that it is a Creation-friendly habit worth repeating every Sunday. The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition has a website (youcanbikethere.com) that you can visit to register for drawings, calculate the calories you burn, find maps and other bike commuting advice. It is estimated that 43,000 people in the SF Bay Area are already bike commuters.

WIDOW & WIDOWERS

Widow and Widowers dinner on Thursday May 2 - 5:30 and Dinner at 6:00 at The Trellis restaurant . See more info in your email or call another member. The price is just \$30. All inclusive with dessert and coffee or tea. Choice of soup or salad, salmon, chicken, pasta. 1077 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call Joan by April 29 for reservation and selection at 650-494-3467.