

# Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." So says Lord Acton with dogmatic assurance. I would like to disagree with this famous statement, and disagree strongly; if power really corrupts, then we Christians would be perpetrating the worst kind of corruption this Sunday when we celebrate Jesus as the all-powerful ruler of the universe.

To explain my disagreement, let me reword Acton's formula in a way that I think captures the reality of the matter: "Apparent power corrupts, and apparent absolute power corrupts absolutely." Real power comes from God alone. It comes from being in touch with God. The closer we come to God, the more confident we become about dealing with God's creation around us, and the less we are afraid of the manipulations of corrupt human beings.

Hence, real power would be the last thing in the world that would corrupt a human being. Real power helps one to see reality as it is, to see the divine reflection in all things, to understand that "without God I am powerless." Genuine power turns us into compassionate and confident human beings.

It is only apparent power that corrupts: when human beings feel that they are completely in control, that they are sole rulers of their own fates, that they need no one else (including God) to work out their destinies. Such people are hiding from reality, clinging to a false view of the universe, and probably trying their best to manipulate people and events to make their own self-serving visions come true. That's corruption.

Jesus, the most power-filled being ever to have lived on this planet, is the permanent sign that genuine power cannot corrupt for an instant.

*Fr. Matt Stanley, Pastor*

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 24: Christ the King  
8:45 am STA. . . . . Adolph Canelo †  
Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-3; Psalm 122:1-5;  
Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

Monday, November 25: St Catherine  
Alexandria  
8:30 am OLR . . . . . All Souls †  
12:15 pm STA . . . . . James & Mary Roddy  
(special intention)  
Readings: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Daniel 3:5, 23, 34, 55, 56; Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday, November 26  
8:30 am OLR . . . . . Deceased Members of  
the Legion of Mary †  
12:15 pm STA . . . . . All Souls †  
Readings: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Psalm 3:2-3,  
4-5, 6-7; Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday, November 27  
7:15 am STA . . . . . All Souls †  
8:30 am OLR . . . . . Kathleen Briggs  
Kerrigan † &  
Bobby Kerrigan †  
Readings: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28;  
Daniel 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67; Luke 21:12-19

Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving  
9:30 am OLR . . . For all Parishioners  
Readings: Sirach 50:22-24; Psalm 138:1-5;  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Luke 17:11-19

Friday, November 29  
7:15 am STA . . . . . All Souls †  
8:30 am OLR . . . . . All Souls †  
12:15 pm STA . . . . . All Souls †  
Readings: Daniel 7:2-14; Daniel 3:75, 76, 77,  
78, 79, 80, 81; Luke 21:29-33

Saturday, November 30: St Andrew,  
Apostle  
12:15 pm STA . . . . . Audrey Custodio  
(birthday)  
Readings: Daniel 7:15-27; Daniel 3:82, 83,  
84, 85, 86, 87; Luke 21:34-36

## PRESIDER SCHEDULE

### 1st Sunday of Advent – December 1

St. Albert the Great  
Sat 5:00 pm . . . . . Fr. Stanley  
Sun 9:00 am . . . . . Fr. Luong  
Sun 11:00 am (Byzantine) Fr. Hernandez

St. Thomas Aquinas  
Sun 7:30 am . . . . . Fr. Hester  
Sun 8:45 am . . . . . Msgr.  
Sandersonfeld  
Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Luong  
Sun 12 noon (Gregorian) TBD

Our Lady of the Rosary  
Sun 9:00 am (Spanish) . . . Fr. Valenton  
Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Stanley  
Sun 6:00 pm . . . . . Fr. Seimas

## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Please continue to turn in your Sacrificial Giving Intention cards. Your decision will decide the future of our parish. Why are we putting so much emphasis on the return of these pledge cards? It is because we won't know what financial limits we have to live by **if our parishioners don't tell us**. We need to budget our expenses based upon the amount of income that you tell us we can count on.

**This information is so crucial because we need to work within a budget that corresponds to an honest projection of our income.** 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 family's decision.



### Our Weekly Offering

Nov. 17 Actual \$11,500 Goal \$11,000  
Disaster Relief For Philippines \$10,000

### Please Pray

FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND — Norman Swope, Robert Kerrigan Sr., William McInerney,  
Fr. Thierry Geris, Consuelo Hernandez, Michael Mensick, Tim Mauer,  
Kathy Gibbs, Bev Webb, Mark Rolf, Dale Rolf, Jeffrey Abel, Robert Matthews,  
Ruth Chippendale, John Uebbing, Rosa Barajas,  
Sr. Jeannette Donnelly, Kaleen Abel, Terry Flynn, Leticia Revilla

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Danuta Skarga-Malolepszy, Bernardina Papazian, Bonita Browne Rhodes,  
Simona Sanchez, Anna Belle O'Toole, Ruth Cannon, Danielle Parks Haines, Jack Pfluke

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)

# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, November 24  
9:15 am . . . . .Advent Gathering (OLRH)  
10:15 am . . . . .Advent Gathering (SESS)  
4:00 pm . . . . .EDGE (DC)  
7:00 pm . . . . .LifeTeen (DC)

Monday, November 25  
6:30 pm . . . . .RCIA - Adults (SAGH)  
7:30 pm . . . . .Green Committee (PC)

Tuesday, November 26  
7:00 pm . . . . .Hispanic Prayer Group (DC)

Wednesday, November 27

Thursday, November 28  
PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED

Friday, November 29  
PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED  
5:00 pm . . . . .Wedding rehearsal (STA)  
7:30 pm . . . . .Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, November 30  
8:15 am . . . . .Environment Team (OLR)  
2:00 pm . . . . .Wedding (STA)  
2:00 pm . . . . .Quinceañera (SAG)

## THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

The Contemplative Prayer group invites you to a series of videos by Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO. He is a former Trappist monk who is the Founder of Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. and author of many books about contemplative prayer. The videos will be shown on the three Thursdays during Advent at the Dermody Center starting at 6:30pm Dec. 5, 12, & 19. The first of the series is called "Attitudes Towards God" and is one hour long.

## BULLETIN DEADLINES

The holidays are coming, and our bulletin publisher has given us earlier deadlines than we normally have. Please note the changed deadlines for articles for these bulletins:

Dec 22 bulletin - deadline Dec 11  
Dec 29 bulletin - deadline Dec 17  
Jan 5 bulletin - deadline Dec 23

## COME TO THE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRE!

The Christmas Craft Faire is only 3 weeks away! Join us on Saturday, December 14 between 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a festive social, with Christmas gift items, jewelry, and baked goods for sale, as well as a children's Craft Corner during the event. Gift baskets will also be available as a silent auction. If you have "crafty-creations" or Christmas items to donate, we will be collecting items after most masses the weekends of December 1st and 8th. See the flyers and posters as you leave today. Contact Natalie Lucha (650.494.1178, nlucha22@yahoo.com) with donations or questions. Kick-off the holiday season with complementary hot chocolate, activities for the children, and holiday gifts! All are welcome.

## THANKSGIVING DAY CELEBRATION

Thanksgiving Day, November 28th is the one authentic American religious feast. How better for us to honor this day than to gather as a faith community for the celebration of the Eucharist at 9:30am at Our Lady of the Rosary church? We invite you to bring gifts of non-perishable food—a real help to families in our area who have little money left over for groceries after paying rent, utility, and medical bills. We invite you to bring bread for your dinner tables to that liturgy. Before the dismissal, we will bless your family's bread. Finally, our collection that day will be for our local St. Vincent de Paul conference.

## THE ADVENT WREATH

Next Sunday, December 1st, the Church enters into a new season. Advent is a winter feast celebrated for the four darkest weeks of the year. The sun rises later and later and sets long before the day is complete. Christmas comes during the darkest of this dark time. It is the Feast of Light, the celebration of Him who is the Light of the World. And so, throughout these four Advent weeks, we light a candle for each of the weeks. As the advent of Christ overcame the darkness of the world, so also, does Christ overcome the darkness within our lives.

The wreath (a circle) is the symbol for eternity; the evergreen symbolize life; the purple candles, hope; the rose (pink) candle, a sign of joy for the Third Sunday and third week of Advent; and the number of candles (four) is symbolic of the four weeks of Advent and of the traditional legends that the world waited four-thousand years for the advent of the Redeemer.

Many families keep alive the tradition of the Advent Wreath in their homes. If the Advent Wreath is not yet a familiar sight in your home, perhaps, this year might be the time to begin. The wreath can be placed on the dinner table or in another prominent place in your home where all can see and can be used as a part of the grace before each evening meal throughout the Advent Season.

## THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEK NOTES

**Spirituality Tuesday** will be on Thanksgiving Break on November 26. We will be back on December 3 at 7:00pm at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center. The **Pastoral Center** will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday November 28 & 29.

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# November 24, 2013

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## SACRIFICIAL GIVING INTENTION CARDS – #4

Thanks to the 123 parishioners who turned in their Sacrificial Giving Intention Cards totaling \$4,225 each week to the Sunday Offertory

33 Families have pledged \$1-\$10 per week

48 Families have pledged \$11-\$25 per week

28 Families have pledged \$26-\$50 per week

7 Families have pledged \$51-\$75 per week

2 Families have pledged \$76-\$100 per week

5 Families have pledged over \$100 per week

Average weekly pledge is \$34

**Don't Forget to Bring Your Sacrificial Giving Intention Cards to Mass Next Sunday.**

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

**The Christmas Story** (a ballet set to Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite) and **Songs & Dances to Prepare Us for Christmas** will be presented by **Dance for Joy** and **Soaring Spirit Dance Ensemble**, choreographed by Susan Lee Olsen, featuring a performance by **Young Sounds of Praise**, our parish's newest music group. Performances at St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium at St. Albert the Great Church, 1095 Channing Ave., on Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for 12 and under. All proceeds go to the carpet fund for St. Albert the Great Church. Tickets are available at the Pastoral Center and at the door.

## COLLECTING BACKPACKS, SLEEPING BAGS, ETC.

"Thank you" from Green Committee and Human Concerns Committee. Thanks to the generous contributions from our parishioners, we have collected the following items for the InnVision Shelter Network and Opportunity Center: 17 rolling suitcases, 8 sleeping bags, 15 backpacks, 2 suitcase trolleys, 1 warm blanket and 1 extra warm like-new large coat. These items are in constant demand by their clients so while the drive is officially over, we will continue to accept donations year round and transfer them to the OC. Keep 'em coming!

## WIDOWS & WIDOWERS ACTIVITIES

We welcome all Widows and Widowers to join us for our festive Joyful Christmas Dinner upstairs at the Trellis restaurant in Menlo Park on December 5th at 5:00 pm. Please call Lorraine Dabney, 650-494-6488, by November 29th for your reservation and entree choice. The cost is only \$30.00 inclusive.