

# First Sunday of Advent

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW – CYCLE A READINGS FOR 2014

The position of the Gospel according to Matthew as the first of the four gospels in the New Testament reflects both the view that it was the first to be written, a view that goes back to the late second century A.D., and the esteem in which it was held by the church; no other was so frequently quoted in the non-canonical literature of earliest Christianity. Although the majority of scholars now reject the opinion about the time of its composition, the high estimation of this work remains. The reason for that becomes clear upon study of the way in which Matthew presents his story of Jesus, the demands of Christian discipleship, and the breaking-in of the new and final age through the ministry but particularly through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

As for the place where the gospel was composed, a plausible suggestion is that it was Antioch, the capital of the Roman province of Syria. That large and important city had a mixed population of Greek-speaking Gentiles and Jews. The tensions between Jewish and Gentile Christians there in the time of Paul (see Gal 2:1-14) in respect to Christian obligation to observe Mosaic law are partially similar to tensions that can be seen between the two groups in Matthew's gospel. The church of Matthew, originally strongly Jewish Christian, had become one in which Gentile Christians were predominant. His gospel answers the question how obedience to the will of God is to be expressed by those who live after the "turn of the ages," the death and resurrection of Jesus. [<http://www.usccb.org>]

## 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. 24 Actual \$xxxxx Goal \$11,000  
Campaign for Human Dev. \$xxxxx



### 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)

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent  
8:45 am STA . . . . . Adolph Canelo †  
10:30 am OLR . . . . . Redmond Walsh †  
*Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-9;  
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44*

Monday, December 2  
8:30 am OLR . . . . . Kathleen Briggs  
Kerrigan † &  
Bobby Kerrigan †  
12:15 pm STA . . . . . Carmen Sanchez †  
*Readings: Isaiah 4:2-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b,  
4c-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 8:5-11*

Tuesday, December 3: St. Francis Xavier  
8:30 am OLR . . . . . Josephine Palomo  
(Special Intention)  
*Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8,  
12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24*

Wednesday, December 4: St. John  
Damasene  
7:15 am STA . . . . . All Souls †  
*Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a,  
3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37*

Thursday, December 5  
8:30 am OLR . . . The Palomo Family  
(Special Intention)  
*Readings: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and  
8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Matthew 7:21, 24-27*

Friday, December 6: St. Nicholas  
12:15 pm STA . . . . . All Souls †  
*Readings: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4,  
13-14; Matthew 9:27-31*

Saturday, December 7: St. Ambrose  
12:15 pm STA . . . . . Deceased Members of  
the DeSilva & Wikramanayake Families †  
*Readings: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm  
147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8*

## BULLETIN DEADLINES

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

## PRESIDER SCHEDULE

### 2nd Sunday of Advent – December 8

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

St. Thomas Aquinas  
Sun 7:30 am . . . . . Fr. Hester  
Sun 8:45 am . . . . . Fr. Roide, S.J  
Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Seimas  
Sun 12 noon (Gregorian) TBD

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

# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 1

10:30 am . . . . Bible Study - Hispanic (DC)  
10:30 am . . . . Catechesis-Hispanic (OLRS)  
4:00 pm . . . . . EDGE (DC)  
7:00 pm . . . . . LifeTeen (DC)

Monday, December 2

6:30 pm . . . . . RCIA - Adults (SAGH)  
7:00 pm . . . . . Computer Class (DC)

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 pm . . . . . Hispanic Prayer Group (DC)  
7:00 pm . . . . . Spirituality Tuesday (SAGH)

Wednesday, December 4

4:00 pm . . . . . STAY Core Team Mtgs (DC)  
6:00 pm . . . . . S.O.U.P. (OLRH)  
6:00 pm . . . . . RCIA - Children (DC)  
7:00 pm . . . . . Community Life (PC 1st Fl)  
7:15 pm . . . . . Catechist Gathering (DC)

Thursday, December 5

10:00 am . . . . . Prayer Group (SAGH)  
7:00 pm . . . . . Contemplative Prayer (DC)  
7:00 pm . . . . . 1st Communion - Hispanic  
(PC 1st Fl & 2nd Fl)

Friday, December 6

6:00 pm . . . . . Friday Night Lights (DC)  
6:00 pm . . . . . Christmas Story Rehearsal  
(SESS Aud)  
7:00 pm . . . . . 1st Friday Adoration (DCCh)  
7:30 pm . . . . . Young Adults - Hispanic  
(OLRH)

Saturday, December 7

8:15 am . . . . . Environment Team (OLR)  
8:30 am . . . . . Eucharistic Ministers Day  
of Reflection - Hispanic (OLR & OLRH)  
10:00 am . . . . . Baptism (STA)  
11:00 am . . . . . Quinceanera Rehearsal  
(OLR)  
2:00 pm . . . . . Baptism (OLR)  
7:00 pm . . . . . Young Adult Circle (SAGH)  
7:00 pm . . . . . The Christmas Story (SESS)

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We need your help in making our churches look beautiful for the holidays. Won't you consider making a donation toward a poinsettia plant in remembrance of a loved one or just as a gift from you? Christmas Flower Envelopes are available in the back of church or vestibule. All of your gifts are greatly appreciated.

## SPIRITUALITY TUESDAY

**December 3- Key Moments in Church History**

**Our host: Father Matt**

**7:00pm St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center**

As Catholics, we are heirs to a remarkable heritage. The history of our Faith is so much more than just a list of facts and dates. It is a fascinating story of adventure, rebellion, tragedy, and triumph.

**The New Springtime** - Facing the aftermath of two horrific world wars, Europe needed the saving message of Jesus Christ. Recognizing the world need for a gift of hope; Pope John XXIII calls the Second Vatican Council. Not intended to solve any doctrinal issues, as other councils had, this was meant to be a positive experience for the Church. It was not smooth sailing! Join Fr. Matt and learn more about this dynamic period in the journey of our Church.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

As is the tradition at Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Albert the Great, there will be a dramatic presentation of the Gospel at the 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve at both sites. We need angels and shepherds and others (Mary, Joseph, innkeeper, Quirinius & Kings) to help bring the story to life.

This year we will do the drama in two parts: the first part will be on Christmas Eve and the second part will be on the Feast of Epiphany, January 5th at the 9 a.m. St. Albert Mass and 10:30 at Our Lady of the Rosary Mass. You do not need to be in both dramas.

If you are interested in being a part of our drama, please fill out a sign-up form (on the Faith Formation Bulletin Board) and return the lower portion to Susan at the Pastoral Center as soon as possible, or simply email the information to Susan at [suolsen@dsj.org](mailto:suolsen@dsj.org). The form includes rehearsal information.

## COME TO THE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRE!

The Christmas Craft Faire is only 2 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 this weekend and next weekend, December 8th. See the flyers and posters as you leave today. Contact Natalie Lucha (650.494.1178, [nlucha22@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## 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.

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# December 1, 2013

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## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### **Holy Day of Obligation Dispensed**

This year, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patronal Feast day of the United States of America is **not** a Holyday of Obligation. Since December 8, 2013 is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9, 2013. The obligation to attend Mass does not transfer. However, this feast remains a very holy day, and we will gather to celebrate the Eucharist in praise of the goodness of God who preserved Mary, the Mother of Jesus, from Original Sin at the first moment of her conception. Our Mass schedule for the day is as follows: Monday, December 9: 7:15am, 12:15pm & 8pm (St. Thomas Aquinas Church); 8:30am & 7pm Spanish (Our Lady of the Rosary Church); 10am & 7pm (St. Albert the Great Church).

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Christmas Story and Songs & Dances to Prepare Us for Christmas will be presented on Saturday, December 7 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium at St. Albert the Great Church. This ballet, choreographed by Susan Lee Olsen, tells the story of the birth of Jesus to the music of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. Our parish's newest music group, Young Sounds of Praise, will also perform. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 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.

## AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR PARISH

For many years our Catholic parishes & schools have benefited from the charitable gifts of appreciated property from many good and generous people. Year-end giving becomes an important consideration for many people in these last weeks of the year 2013. The knowledge that your gifts is assisting and advancing the mission of the Catholic Church can bring about tremendous good in our world. If you are able to make a gift of appreciated stock, properties, or cash, while reducing your tax liability, please contact Chuck Tully (ctully@dsj.org) or (650) 494-2496.

## ADVENT PENANCE LITURGIES & CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 16th at 7:00pm – St. Thomas Aquinas  
Monday, December 17th at 7:00pm – Our Lady of the Rosary