

Third Sunday of Advent

ADVENT – A TIME OF ANTICIPATION

We have now entered into the 3rd week of Advent, and as we continue to prepare ourselves and wait for the Lord, I'd like to tell a true story.

There was a young boy named Joshua who longed for a Transformers action figure one particular Christmas. His parents had a rule that he couldn't get out of bed until 5 a.m. to wake them up and open gifts. But the young boy couldn't stand it; so at 4 a.m. he snuck down to the tree to have a look. He remembered the tree was beautiful, all lit up and surrounded by presents. Some were obviously socks and clothes, he thought, but one looked promising and was marked with, "To Joshua." Against his better judgment, he peeled back a little bit of the wrapping paper and saw he had received a Decepticon (it's a Transformers thing), just as he had hoped.

Thrilled, he put the wrapping paper back together and snuck back upstairs. Then, about an hour later, he woke up his parents and headed downstairs. Much to all their surprise, they found a note from Santa which explained that, because Joshua had peeked at his toy, Santa had taken back all the presents. Joshua cried very hard. It turned out that it was all a prank by Joshua's brother, who had seen him peeking. Eventually, all the presents reappeared.

During Advent, Christians wait in eager anticipation for the gift of Christmas: the coming of Jesus. But unlike toys, it's OK to take a sneak peek because God wants us to anticipate. And it's a present he'll never ever take away from us.

Fr. Dat Luong, Parochial Vicar

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you to everyone who supported the mission and ministries of our parish during the month of November. Our average weekly collection for the 4th month of this new fiscal year was an all-time record of \$12,559 (\$9,715 in 2012). Our budget for Jul-Nov was \$275,000; our actual is \$283,000. This is an incredible achievement! Let's continue this good work of stewardship.



Our Weekly Offering

Dec. 8 Actual \$11,000 Goal \$11,000
St. Elizabeth Seton School \$3,250

Please note our email address:
bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DUE
Dec 29 .. **Tue** Dec 17 noon
Jan 5 ... **Mon** Dec 23 noon

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 15: 3rd Sunday Advent
8:45 am STAGiuseppa Pennisi †
10:30 am OLRCaroline Mathews
(Birthday)
6:00 pm OLRWarsu Kan Jacob
(Health)
Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; James 5:7-10/Matthew 11:2-11

Monday, December 16
8:30 am OLRMary Heckler †
7:00 pm SAGAll Souls †
Readings: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 17
8:30 am OLRLi-Wan Wu (Health)
12:15 pm STAFrancois & Maria
Cecilia Tonegrova †
Readings: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday, December 18
7:15 am STAAll Souls †
12:15 pm STARev. Baltazar Ayala †
Readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday, December 19
7:15 am STAJack & Sybil Pfluke †
12:15 pm STAJames & Edith Dubbs †
Readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25

Friday, December 20
7:15 am STARev. John Cooper †
8:30 am OLRRev. John Cooper †
12:15 pm STARev. John Cooper †
Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, December 21: St. Peter Canisius
12:15 pm STAAgnese Coropassi †
Readings: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent – December 22

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. Marini
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Stanley
Sun 12 noon (Gregorian) Fr. Ramelow

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



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, John Uebbing,
Sr. Jeannette Donnelly, Terry Flynn, Leticia Revilla, Ken Knudsen, Agnes Tan, Ramona Stumpp

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Simona Sanchez, Anna Belle O'Toole,
Ruth Cannon, Danielle Parks Haines, Jack Pfluke, Carl Hipp, Benny Shum

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 15

9:15 am Faith Form. Classes (OLRH)
10:15 am Faith Form. Classes (SESS)
12:00 pm Spanish Mass-NO 9am (OLR)
1:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe
Lunch (OLRH)
1:00 pm Pageant Rehearsal (OLR)
2:00 pm Wedding (SAG)
2:00 pm Baptism (STA)
4:00 pm EDGE (DC)
7:00 pm LifeTeen (DC)

Monday, December 16

10:30 am TMC Book Club (THL)
6:30 pm RCIA - Adults (SAGH)
7:00 pm Advent Reconciliation (STA)
7:00 pm Computer Class (PC 1st Fl)
7:00 pm Novena - Baby Jesús (OLR)
7:30 pm TMC Board (THD)

Tuesday, December 17

6:00 pm Novena - Baby Jesús (OLR)
7:00 pm Advent Reconciliation (OLR)
7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group (DC)

Wednesday, December 18

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 Novena - Baby Jesús (OLR)
7:15 pm Human Concerns (OLRH)

Thursday, December 19

10:00 am Prayer Group (SAGH)
7:00 pm Novena - Baby Jesús (OLR)
7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer (DC)
8:00 pm Hospitality after Novena
(OLRH)
7:30 pm STA Remodel Comm (THD)

Friday, December 20

7:00 pm Novena - Baby Jesús (OLR)
7:00 pm Novena / Posada (OLRH)

Saturday, December 21

8:15 am Environment Team (OLR)
7:00 pm Novena - Baby Jesús (OLR)
8:00 pm Hospitality after Novena
(OLRH)

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

On Thursday Dec 18 at 6:30 at Dermody Center - Part 3 of "The Spiritual Journey" Video series: "Three monks and how they created centering prayer in the apophatic method". A 30 minute silent prayer period will begin at 7:30pm for those who want to stay and pray, or those who want to come to meditate.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH RENOVATION & CLOSURE

The renovations to the interior of St. Thomas Aquinas Church will begin on Monday, December 30. The church will be closed and no Masses or other services will be held there in January and February 2014. During that time, the pews will be taken out and refinished, floors will be re-done, all walls will be painted, altars will be repainted and resurfaced, and new carpeting will be installed.

During the closure, Masses will be relocated as follows:

* Daily Masses at 7:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. will be held in the living room of the Thomas House, next door to the church. at 745 Waverley Street.

* The Sunday 7:30 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. at St. Albert the Great Church, 1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto.

* The Sunday 8:45 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 8:45 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium, 1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto.

* The Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass will be celebrated in the Thomas House basement hall, next door to the church.

* The Sunday 12:00 pm Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 pm. at St. Albert the Great Church, 1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto.

Signs will be posted prominently on the church doors directing those seeking to attend Mass to the alternate sites. Please pass the word to friends and acquaintances who might not hear about this temporary relocation of Masses. This disruption in the patterns we each follow as we come together in worship will give way to gratitude when the work is done.

ADVENT PENANCE LITURGIES AND CONFESSIONS

During the Advent Season, local parishes in our Deanery will offer several opportunities for you to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Christmas Season.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Monday, December 16, 7:00pm

Our Lady of the Rosary Church (Bilingual), Tuesday, December 17, 7:00pm

St. William Parish (Los Altos), December 18, 3:30pm

St. Nicholas Parish (Los Altos), December 18, 7:30pm

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & 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? Special Christmas Flower Envelopes are available in the pews. All your gifts will be greatly appreciated.

AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR PARISH

For many years our Catholic parishes & schools have benefited from the charitable gifts of appreciated property from nay 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.

December 15, 2013

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. The form includes rehearsal information.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 pm Family Mass – Our Lady of the Rosary
(Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass)
5:00 pm Family Mass – St. Albert the Great
(Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass)
6:00 pm – St. Thomas Aquinas
7:00 pm – Our Lady of the Rosary (Spanish)
Midnight Mass 12:00 am – St. Thomas Aquinas
(Gregorian)

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

7:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas
9:00 am – St. Albert the Great
10:30 am – Our Lady of the Rosary
10:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas
12:00 Noon – St. Thomas Aquinas (Gregorian)

UPDATE – 2013 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Our ADA totals as of December 1, 2013 are:

Total pledged: \$138,583
Total paid: \$135,000
Total Refund: \$15,000
Potential Refund: \$18,000
Number of Donors: 358



Please keep making your regular payments. When all our pledges have been paid, St. Thomas Aquinas will receive a much needed rebate to help us pay for improvements of our parish facilities. Thank you for your support of Bishop McGrath and our local church.