

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ADVENT – A TIME OF ANTICIPATION

We are close to celebrating an event that occurred over 2,000 years ago—the birth of a humble babe in a manger, Jesus Christ our Lord and savior. We will celebrate the joy of knowing that God is close and wants to walk with us on our journey through life. On Christmas, we encounter the tenderness and love of God who bends down to us in all of our limitations, weaknesses and sinfulness. He is born into our lives.

Jesus showed His love by entering into history to bring humanity back to God and to overcome death and sin. He desired to live in incredible intimacy with us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. It is our choice to embrace this great love or to reject it.

Let us ask our Lord to save us from the temptations of the division, from internal struggles and selfishness. May God help us to experience a Christmas that holds a place for Christ's promise of authentic joy and peace for us all.

Deacon Daniel Hernandez

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

As the Holy Christmas Season comes round each year, the message of Jesus, who is light in the midst of darkness, echoes once more from the crib of Bethlehem in the ears of Christians and re-echoes in their hearts with an ever new freshness of joy and piety. Today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

The Clergy and Pastoral Staff welcome and invite you to celebrate with us the Christmas liturgies at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish to experience the wonder and joy of God's enduring love in the Word made Flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Fr. Matt Stanley

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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 you. We encourage everyone to consider using the Sunday Offertory Envelopes or Online Giving as a way of giving to the Lord the "first fruits" of the "treasure" we have received.



Our Weekly Offering

Dec. 15 Actual \$xx,xxx Goal \$11,000
Retired Religious \$x,xxx

Please note our email address:
bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DUE
Jan 5 . . . **Mon** Dec 23 noon

Please Pray

FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND — Norman Swope, Robert Kerrigan Sr., William McInerny, 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, Tom Wood

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 22: 3rd Sunday Advent
8:45 am STA. Vince Giovannotto †
10:30 am OLR Jack Liberatore †
6:00 pm OLR Lucita Rangal †
Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Monday, December 23: St. John Kanty
8:30 am OLR All Souls †
12:15 pm STA Fr. Baltazar Ayala †
Readings: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Vigil
All Masses All Parishioners
Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-3,5-6; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Titus 2: 11- 14; Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day
9:00 am SAG Encarnacion, Pedron & Viray Family (Special Intention)
Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-3,5-6; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Titus 2: 11- 14; Matthew 1:18-25

Thursday, December 26: St. Stephen
8:30 am OLR Mary Fitzgerald (sp int)
12:15 pm STA Gerolomo Cesano †
Readings: Acts of Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17-22

Friday, December 27: St. John, Apostle
12:15 pm STA All Souls †
Readings: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday, December 28: Holy Innocents
12:15 pm STA All Souls †
5:00 pm SAG James Cesano, Sr. †
Readings: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Matthew 2:13-18

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – December 29

St. Albert the Great
Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Luong
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Seimas
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. Luong
Sun 12 noon (Gregorian) Fr. Sigman, OP

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 22

9:15 am Faith Form. Classes (OLRH)
10:15 am . . . Faith Form. Classes (SESS)
11:30 am . . . Pageant Rehearsal (OLR)
1:00 pm Baptism (OLR)
1:30 pm Pageant Rehearsal (SAG)
3:00 pm Baptism (STA)
4:00 pm EDGE Christmas Party (DC)
7:00 pm LifeTeen Christmas Party (DC)
7:00 pm Novena - Baby Jesús (OLR)

Monday, December 23

6:30 pm RCIA - Adults (SAGH)
7:00 pm Computer Class (PC CR1)
7:00 pm Novena - Baby Jesús (OLR)
7:30 pm Green Committee (PC CR2)
8:00 pm Hospitality after Novena (OLRH)

Tuesday, December 24

PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED

5:00 pm Mass (OLR)
5:00 pm Mass (SAG)
6:00 pm Mass (STA)
7:00 pm Mass (OLR) - Spanish
Midnight . . . Mass (STA) - Gregorian

Wednesday, December 25

PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED

7:30 am Mass (STA)
9:00 am Mass (SAG)
10:30 am . . . Mass (STA)
10:30 am . . . Mass (OLR)
12:00 pm . . . Mass (STA) - Gregorian

Thursday, December 26

PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED

Friday, December 27

2:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal (SAG)
7:00 pm Hispanic Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, December 28

8:15 am Environment Team (OLR)
10:00 am . . . Mini High School Retreat (DC)
10:30 am . . . Baptism Class (PC CR1)
2:30 pm Wedding (SAG)

HOLIDAY HOURS

Our Pastoral Center will close for the Christmas Holidays, December 23 – Dec 27. We will be open again on Monday, December 30th. The Daily Mass schedule remains unchanged.

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.

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.

GREEN CORNER

Meatless Monday is a campaign launched in 2003 launched in association with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. It has spread to 29 countries. Many communities, hundreds of schools and school districts (including Santa Cruz), universities, restaurants, and even the Norwegian Army (!) participate in this movement.

Why? Three simple reasons: Reducing meat intake by 15% is better for health, for the planet and it saves money. "On average, Americans consume 8 ounces of meat per day – 45% more than the USDA recommends. Going meatless once a week can reduce your risk of chronic preventable conditions like cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity. It can also help limit your carbon footprint and save precious resources like fresh water and fossil fuel". Economic savings come both from lower costs for plant protein and reduced health care spending. You can read much more about Meatless Monday at meatlessmonday.com.

December 22, 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 PRESIDERS

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 pm Family Mass – Our Lady of the Rosary - Fr. Luong

(Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass)

5:00 pm Family Mass – St. Albert the Great - Fr. Seimas

(Children's Christmas Pageant during Mass)

6:00 pm – St. Thomas Aquinas - Msgr. Sandersfeld

7:00 pm – Our Lady of the Rosary (Spanish) - Fr. Valenton & Fr. Stanley

Midnight Mass 12:00 am – St. Thomas Aquinas (Gregorian) - Fr. Ramelow, O.P.

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

7:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas - Fr. Hester

9:00 am – St. Albert the Great - Fr. Stanley

10:30 am – Our Lady of the Rosary - Fr. Seimas

10:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas - Fr. Luong

12:00 Noon – St. Thomas Aquinas (Gregorian) - Fr. Kromholtz, O.P.

OLR LOOKING FOR HELPERS FOR CHRISTMAS

The OLR Site committee will be decorating Our Lady of the Rosary Church for Christmas immediately after 10:30 Mass on Sunday, December 22nd. They need groups to put up the greens, and add lights and ribbons. Also the creche will be set up. Refreshments will be provided for all the helpers.