

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

FROM ADVENT TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Our Advent waiting has come to an end, and we have joyfully celebrated Christmas. There was Mass on Christmas Eve with the depiction of the Gospel in the Christmas Pageant. There were parties and family gatherings with fabulous meals. Our plates have overflowed with wonderful rich holiday food we only enjoy at this time of year. Christmas morning came, and the celebration continued. Presents were opened followed by more feasting. These two days we anticipate for so long go by very quickly. A few short hours, and then it is gone. We awake the next morning to find bargains galore and the encouragement to come back to the stores and shop 'til we drop, exchanging that gift that wasn't quite right, and buying all the things we really wanted but didn't get. Shelves in the stores are bare; decorations look worn and tired. In a few short days they will be gone, and our world will have moved on.

But the church will continue to be resplendent in the colors of Christmas for three more weeks. First we celebrate The Holy Family - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, our perfect family representing all the love and warmth of God present with us. Then we remember the coming of the Magi with their glorious gifts at Epiphany. The Christmas Season doesn't end until we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, well beyond the time that most of the decorations in the world around us have been taken down. So even though the bright lights and colors of Christmas have long since faded, let us savor this all-too-brief season of hope and promise. Let us allow Christmas to linger. If the signs of Christmas disappear from our world, let them remain deeply embedded in our hearts & minds throughout the Christmas Season and well into the new year. God's peace and blessings be with all of you throughout the Christmas season and beyond.

Susan Lee Olsen, Director of Catechetical Ministry

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you for your generosity in this year's Christmas collection. Although we are not yet able to give you a complete report of the size of your gift given in that collection, we assure you that the love which these gifts represent will enable us to continue the work which we must undertake here at St. Thomas

Our Weekly Offering	
Dec. 15 Actual	\$11,500 Goal \$11,000
Retired Religious	\$6,000
Dec. 22 Actual	\$xx,xxx Goal \$11,000

Aquinas Parish. If you were not prepared for our Christmas collection, we encourage you still to make your gift. Your generosity will help us more than you can imagine. THANK YOU FOR SHARING GOD'S GIFTS.

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, Tom Wood

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

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 29: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8:45 am STA
Adolph Canelo †
Readings: Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians 3:12-21 or Colossians 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday, December 30
Readings: 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke 2:36-40

Tuesday, December 31
12:15 pm STA James & Edith Dubbs
Readings: 1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; John 1:1-18

Wednesday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
8:30 am OLR Caroline Mathews (Birthday)
Readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Thursday, January 2: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory Nazianzen
8:30 am OLR Mary Grande (health)
Readings: 1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 1:19-28

Friday, January 3
Readings: 1 John 2:29-3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; John 1:29-34

Saturday, January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
12:15 pm STA Benoit George †
Readings: 1 John 3:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 7-8, 9; John 1:35-42

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

Epiphany of the Lord – January 5

St. Albert the Great
1095 Channing Ave.

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Luong
Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Seimas
Sun 10:30am (Byzantine) Fr. Hernandez
Sun 12 noon (Gregorian) TBA

St. Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium
1095 Channing Ave.

Sun 8:45 am Fr. Marini

Thomas House Basement
745 Waverley St.

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Valenton

Our Lady of the Rosary
3233 Cowper St.

Sun 9:00 am (Spanish) . . Fr. Mikalonis
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Valenton
Sun 6:00 pm Fr. Seimas

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 29

Monday, December 30

Tuesday, December 31
PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED

Wednesday, January 1
PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED
8:00 am Rosary for Peace (OLR)
8:30 am Mass (OLR)
12:00 pm Mass (STA) - Gregorian

Thursday, January 2
PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED
7:15 am Mass (STA)
8:30 am Mass (OLR)
12:15 pm Mass (STA)

Friday, January 3
PASTORAL CENTER CLOSED
7:00 pm 1st Friday Adoration (DC)
7:30 pm Hispanic Young Adults
(OLRH)

Saturday, January 4
8:15 am Environment Team (OLR)
9:00 am Epiphany Rehearsal (SAG)
11:00 am Epiphany Rehearsal (OLR)

HOLIDAY HOURS

Our Pastoral Center will close for the New Year Holidays, December 31 – Jan 3. We will be open again on Monday, January 6th.

SAVE THE DATES

- * Jan 11 - Liturgical Ministers in-svc
- * Feb 21 - REVS vs. SEMS Basketball
- * Feb 22 - Crab Dinner Dance
- * Mar 1 - Volunteer Social
- * Mar 15 - St. Patrick's Day Party

THANKS FROM SVDP

Our SVDP conference wishes to thank the parish for your admirable generosity during this past year. SVDP provides help in most areas of daily living. One Sunday, we were delighted when the fourth & fifth grade religion classes made up the food bags, making our total to 93 bags! We wish you a most blessed Christmas Season and with the hopes that these blessings flow into the New Year.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

I am very pleased to announce that Bishop McGrath has assigned Fr. Estanislao "Stasys" Mikalonis as Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish effective January 1, 2014. Here is a brief biography of Fr. Stasys.

Fr. Matt, Pastor

Fr. Estanislao Mikalonis (goes by "Stasys" his Lithuanian name) was born in Argentina to a Lithuanian family. He was ordained on December 3rd, 2005 as a religious missionary priest. He holds an MA in Sacred Theology and an MA in Counseling Psychology (MFT, University of Santa Clara). As a deacon he worked in a shanty town in Chile, teaching philosophy at a religious novitiate and doing pastoral work in a Parish. After being ordained priest during his first year was assigned to work in a country side town in Lithuania. On his second year he was transferred to work in Palestine/West Bank, the Holy Land. On December 1st, 2007 he arrived in the Diocese of San Jose and was incardinated to the Diocese in 2013. His assignments in the Diocese have included Saint Athanasius Parish in Mountain View and Saint Elizabeth Parish in Milpitas. Currently he teaches at the ILM of the Diocese of San Jose. Fr. Stasys is fluent in Spanish, English and Lithuanian and loves basketball!

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.

JANUARY 1, 2014 (WEDNESDAY)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - World Day of Prayer for Peace

Our New Year's Day Mass will be at 8:30am at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. There will be a Rosary for Peace at 8:00am. We invite you to this prayerful way to begin the New Year. Although there is no obligation to attend Mass on this Holy Day, we encourage all who are able to join us in this celebration. There will also be a Gregorian Latin Mass at 12:00pm at St. Albert the Great Church.

December 29, 2013

A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FROM PARISH STAFF

Thank you for your expressions of kindness and love, for your remembrance of us in your prayers, and for your generous support of our work throughout the year. We are privileged to be called to serve you. We also extend our deepest gratitude to those who helped prepare our churches for Christmas. We are also grateful to those who donated cash gifts towards our poinsettias and flowers. A special thank you to all those who served as Environment Team, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Hospitality Ministers and Ushers, Musicians, and Choir Members. We would also like to thank our children who participated in our Gospel dramas on Christmas Eve. All of you made this a prayerful and festive Christmas.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, January 5, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany - the appearance of the three magi to offer gifts to Jesus. We complete our Christmas Pageant with a dramatization of the Gospel at the 9:00 a.m. (SAG) and 10:30 a.m. (OLR) Masses. There is a rehearsal for all children who would like to participate on Saturday, January 4 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at St. Albert the Great and from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary. If you participated in our pageant on Christmas Eve, we invite you to come back for this drama. If you weren't able to be with us on Christmas Eve, we are glad to have you join us. Contact Susan at suolsen@dsj.org.

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.

THANK YOU – CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRE

A very special thank you to Natalie Lucha, Community Life and all the others who helped to gather, sort and tag items for the Christmas Craft Faire. Many hands made it a very successful day at the Faire. Thanks to all who helped set up and tear down, and all those who attended the Faire and purchased items. The Faire netted \$2500 towards future Community Life activities, a great start for our first Faire. Hope to see you all next year!