

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

St Thomas Aquinas Parish presents a new Spirituality series. Starting in October this year, it will be held every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:30 pm at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center (each year each site will have its turn at hosting these sessions). We are calling this series: STA's: Spirituality Tuesday Assembly.

We want to dedicate one night a week in the parish for Spiritual development, growth and enrichment.

Each Tuesday session will revolve around these four major topics:

1. Formation & Information (catechetical and faith learning issues)
2. Sacred Scripture and Faith Sharing (based on the Sunday readings)
3. Prayer in all its forms
4. Burning Bush (burning issues, burning questions, challenging faith and religious controversies)

We invite you to attend all Tuesdays or the ones that interest you the most.

October 6th: The Catholic Response to Teen Suicide in Palo Alto (presented by our youth and a panel of experts)

October 13th: The Letter to the Hebrews and Sunday Scriptures (presented by Fr George)

October 20th: Taize Prayer (presented by Fr Thierry)

October 27th: The New Missal and the New Prayer Translations for the Mass (presented by Diana Macalintal of the diocese of San Jose)

We hope to see you for these STA's!

(planning team: Fr George, Fr Thierry, Deacon Bunje, Jean Ramasciotti, Sue Clingingsmith, Donna Pellizari, June Harmon, Bev and Neale Wade and Gerard McGuire)

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 20:

10:30 am OLR... Leonila Santa Maria †
Readings: Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54; Jas 3:16 — 4:3; Mk 9:30-37

Monday, September 21: St. Matthew

7:15 am STA... Zell Cooper †
Readings: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday, September 22:

Readings: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday, September 23: St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

7:15 am STA... Jack Morrisroe †
 12:15 pm STA... Layda Kurash †
Readings: Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday, September 24:

7:15 am STA... Ann Bienkowski †
 8:30 am OLR... Steven Koperski †
Readings: Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

Friday, September 25:

Readings: Hg 2:1-9; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday, September 26: St. Cosmas and

St. Damian; Blessed Virgin Mary
 12:15 pm STA... Florencio & Maria
 Nieves Pedron †
Readings: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45

OUR BEST — The more the world is at its worst, the more we need the Church at its best. —Anonymous

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday September 26 & 27, 2009

St. Albert the Great
 Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Geris
 Sun 9:00 am Fr. Aranha

St. Thomas Aquinas
 Sun 7:30 am..... Fr. Hester
 Sun 8:45 am..... Fr. Rubio
 Sun 10:30 am..... Fr. Geris
 Sun 12 noon Fr. Nahoe

Our Lady of the Rosary
 Sun 9:00 am (español) .. Fr. Geris
 Sun 10:30 am..... Fr. Aranha



Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Nicholas Humy, Devin Wakefield, Mary Harvey, Rita McAlester, Carson Enghardt, Frankie Briggs, Barbara Franceschi, Norman Swope, Virginia Jordan, Lawa Simeone, Alan Shpalo, Sarah Clear, Eva Leung, Jane Bahr, Smithy Smith, Milo Gwosden, Jim Abler, Bobby Kerrigan, Elizabeth Hofstetter

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Chet Maksim, Antoni Bozynski, Gilbert Huesca, Rosalie Martin-Vegue, Benjamin Antonio Sr., Jim Chinn, Robert Jordan, Nancy Condon, Anthony Thalmann, Sophie Bandur, Rena del Rosario, Geraldine Thalmann

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

Please note our email address:
bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DUE
 Oct 4.... **Thu** Sep 24 noon
 Oct 11.... **Thu** Oct 1 noon



Our Weekly Offering

August 30..... \$ 8,712.63
 St. Vincent de Paul..... \$ 4,993.33
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD ... \$ 81,878.27
 Budget YTD... \$ 85,381.89
 Variance - 4.10%

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, September 20: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
9:15, 10:15 am .. Religious Ed (OLR/SESS)

Monday, September 21: Eid al-Fit'r (Islamic feast of the conclusion of Ramadan) celebrated this week
7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)
7:30 pm Thomas Merton (SAGH)

Tuesday, September 22: Autumn begins
7:00 pm STA Assemblies (SAGH)
7:30 pm Human Concerns (OLRH/
stained glass side)
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus
(OLRH/kitchen side)

Wednesday, September 23:
6:30 pm RCIC Elem. (DC)
7:30 pm RCIA (PC)
7:30 pm RCIC HS (DC)
7:00 pm STA Interior Site C. (SAGH)

Thursday, September 24:
10:00 am Maintenance Comm. (PC)
7:00 pm ASDC (SAGH)

Friday, September 25:
7:00 pm Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, September 26:

JUSTFAITH BEGINS

Even if you are unable to attend the JF orientation at St. Athanasius (9/20, 2 p.m.) you can still start the program at St. William (on El Monte in Los Altos) at 7 p.m. on Sept. 29.

HOTEL DE ZINK

Many, many thanks to all the wonderful, generous parishioners who brought food to the homeless guests at the Christian Reformed Church during the month of August. The parishioners of the church, as well as the guests, are most appreciative.

– Ruth Chippendale

THE SAINT FRANCIS PLEDGE: PRAY

As Catholic Christians, prayer is central to everything we do. Prayer helps us define our relationship with God, gives us direction, perspective and wisdom. In very fact, it helps us to understand who we are as individuals and as the People of God.

It follows then, that our efforts to establish a more ecologically sound and just world must be grounded in our individual and communal prayer.

Here's what you can do:

1. Pray in Thanksgiving for the wonders of the natural world, thus renewing our awareness and appreciation of God's creation.
2. Pray for inspiration and courage, asking the Holy Spirit to help us be creative in the way we approach the task of renewing the Earth, and to give us the courage to act on that inspiration.
3. Pray for healing for the victims of our failings in sincere repentance for our part in upholding the systems that perpetuate all kinds of injustice.
4. Pray for all of those who are in positions to make decisions that impact our world, including government, church and institutional leadership and educators.

Prayer is ultimately about transformation. Before we can transform our Earth into something much more like God's vision, we must transform ourselves. Prayer is the key to doing that.

TAKE THE FRANCIS PLEDGE! Be the change you want to see in our world!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul food pantry is in need of the following food items: crackers, fruit cups, plastic spoons, tuna, "hearty chunky" soups. These foods are bagged for people who come to the Pastoral Center in need of food.

Please remember the Auto Donation Contest recently published in the bulletin. If you have a car you want to dispose of call 1-800-937-7837 & they will come & remove it for you, running or not. Be sure to mention St. Thomas Aquinas Conference so we get the credit.

THE VISITATION OF U.S. WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Come Sunday, Sept. 20, 3:00 - 4:30 pm at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road for a timely and informative discussion with Sr. Eloise Rosenblatt, R.S.M., on the implications for progressive American Catholics of the current Vatican-initiated apostolic visitations of American women religious orders.

It's an axiom in international relations: the situation of women signals a nation's political progress. Thus, not only Sisters, but Catholic laity might pay attention to what is happening to U.S. women religious and become acquainted with the focus of a 3-year Visitation by the Vatican. As we look at the summons to women's congregations, what is the message to laity about how the Catholic Church of the U.S. is being assessed at this phase of its post-conciliar renewal? How is the present process different from the pastoral invitation by John Paul II in 1983 to all U.S. religious to greater communion in the Church?

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about an increasingly controversial topic and what Catholic lay people might expect following the investigations of women's religious congregations.

– Spiritual Education Committee, Thomas Merton Center of Palo Alto

September 20, 2009

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Gospel Reflection For Families / Mark 9:30-37: It may be difficult for parents of our time to think of children as 'non-persons'. They are probably the most important people in our lives! Parents in ancient times loved their children just as parents do today. While children in our time are protected by many laws, still very few children carry any authority or power in our culture. So the difference is not in children and parents of two different times, rather the point is how children are unencumbered by status. Their love for God is fresh and uncomplicated. This is a quality in children we should consciously observe and emulate.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family : The gospel message is clear. We need to be of service to one another in order to be true followers of Christ. In an effort not to put ourselves first, look through your parish bulletin as a family over the next few weeks. See where you can serve other people in your community. Even if you choose an opportunity where everyone can't physically attend, allow other family members to support the service in prayer or maybe sending a note or card to those being served.

Sunday Morning Classes: We're in full gear! Registration, Emergency Forms and Calendar are available in the back of the church. You can also e-mail or call and we'll gladly e-mail them to you. Info. listed below.

Children's Catechumenate: We offer a process affectionately called R.C.I.C. to children 3rd grade through high school who have not received Baptism and/or 1st Eucharist and Confirmation. If you have a child that has this need, please contact my office for details.

Mark Your Calendars:

Sept. 20th Reg. Classes // Catechetical Sunday
(Commissioning of Cats. at 9am SAG &
10:30 OLR Masses)

Sept. 27th No Classes // Local Holiday

Oct. 4th Reg. Classes // **Parent Meeting during children's class time**

Oct. 4th Blessing of the Animals // St. Albert the Great Site parking lot at 3pm

For information on any of the items listed, please contact Susan Clingingsmith, Dir. of Rel. Ed. at youth@paloaltocatholic.org or 650-494-2496 x25.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Come one, come all animals of all sizes, shapes, breeds and species. Please join us for the annual Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, Oct. 4th. We'll be gathering at the St. Albert the Great site parking lot at 3pm. Bring your 'special' family member for that special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi and don't forget to invite your friends!