

# Second Sunday of Advent



## TODAY'S MESSAGE

### WRAPPED IN SPLENDOR

Today's readings begin with the announcement by the prophet Baruch: "Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever" (5:1). This Advent scripture reading summons us to be wrapped in splendor. During this time of year when we purchase wrapping paper and wrap our Christmas gifts, the Church asks us to look at what has been "wrapped" around us. Are peace and justice, the hallmarks of God's splendor, the wrapping that others see when they see us? Saint Paul reminds us that this "wrapping" should show that our love for one another increases with the passing of each day. As we await the coming of the One who was wrapped in swaddling clothes at his birth, we pray that we will be wrapped in the splendor of God.

## SPIRITUALITY TUESDAYS ASSEMBLY

"A Call to Holiness" - Tues, Dec 8.

Join our pastor at 7:30pm at St. Albert the Great Church on this holy day -- The Immaculate Conception. Fr. George will present an explanation about this special day on which we honor virgin Mary,

the mother of Jesus. (Refreshments and hospitality will follow the Mass)

On December 15 the Tuesday Spirituality focus is on "Prayer" and Fr. Thierry will preside at "The Liturgy of the Hours" at 7:00pm at St. Albert's, including catechesis on this holy liturgy.

## PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all parishioners who have already contributed non-perishable food items to this year's annual food drive. Donations will be gratefully accepted through the end of the month. Volunteers are needed to help sort and store food donations at OLR on Sunday December 6th right after the 10:30 am mass. Questions? Feel free to contact Eileen Freyre at eileen.freyre@gmail.com. Thank you!



### Please Pray

**FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** — Nicholas Humy, Devin Wakefield, Mary Harvey, Rita McAlester, Carson Enghardt, Frankie Briggs, Barbara Franceschi, Norman Swope, Milo Gwosden, Bobby Kerrigan, Elizabeth Hofstetter, Eivaldo Nascirueito, Fausto Araujo, Joan Copenhagen, Ann Bisacca, Karen LeMoine, Sally Sullivan, Harry Browne, Damian Dykema

**FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED** — Geraldine Thalmann, Isabel Mulcahy, Alija Jayne Schemel, Harriett Biggs, Fr. Charles Macedo, Vivencio Ilaa, Betty Streep, Raoul Geeurickx, Jane Bahr

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)

Please note our email address:  
[bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org)

BULLETIN . . . . . ARTICLE DUE  
Dec 20 . . . **Thu** Dec 10 noon  
Dec 27 . . . **Thu** Dec 17 noon



### Our Weekly Offering

November 22 . . . . . \$ 8,105.05  
CHD . . . . . \$ 4,686.00  
*thank you for your continued generosity*

### Year To Date

Actual YTD . . \$ 197,294.44  
Budget YTD . . \$ 206,037.29  
Variance . . . . . - 4.24%

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 6:

9:00 am SAG . . . . Vince Giovannotto †  
*Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6*

Monday, December 7: St. Ambrose

8:30 am OLR . . . . Raoul Geeurickx †  
*Readings: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26*

Tuesday, December 8:

8:30 am OLR . . . . Brian Franklin †  
*Readings: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38*

Wednesday, December 9: St. Juan Diego

8:30 am OLR . . . . Brian Franklin †  
12:15 am STA . . . . Joe Sequeira †  
*Readings: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30*

Thursday, December 10:

*Readings: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15*

Friday, December 11: St. Damasus I

*Readings: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19*

Saturday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

12:15 am STA . . . Bernadette St. John (health)  
*Readings: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712*

## PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday December 12 & 13, 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. Marini  
Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Aranha  
Sun 12 noon . . . . . TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 10:30 am . . . . . Fr. Geris  
**Sun 12 noon (español)** . Fr. Geris  
Sun 6:00 pm . . . . . Fr. Geris

# St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, December 6: Second Sunday of Advent

9:15, 10:15 am .. Religious Education (OLR/SAG)

9:15, 10:15 am .. Religious Education Parent Meeting (OLRH/SAGH)

4:00 pm ..... Youth (OLRH/DC)

Monday, December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

6:30 pm ..... JustFaith (PC)

7:30 pm ..... Medjugorje Group (KC)

Tuesday, December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:00 pm ..... Baptism Class (PC)

7:00 pm ..... Hispanic Prayer (OLR)

7:00 pm ..... Spirituality Tuesdays (SAGH)

7:00 pm ..... YA Circle (OLR/KC)

7:30 pm ..... Knights of Columbus (OLRH)

8:00 pm ..... Gregorian Mass (STA)



Wednesday, December 9:

9:00 am ..... STAY Board (PC)

5:30 pm ..... 1st Reconciliation (SAG)

6:30 pm ..... 1st Rec. Reception (SAGH)

Thursday, December 10:

10:00 am ..... Seton Dev. Board (SAGH)

7:00 pm ..... Thomas Merton (SAGH)

Friday, December 11:

7:00 pm ..... YAG (OLRH)

Saturday, December 12: Hanukkah begins

9:30 am ..... SVDP Council (OLRH)

7:30 pm ..... Christmas Concert (SAG)

## THE GREEN CORNER

Are you dreaming of a 'green' Christmas? The holidays are just around the corner. Why not make your celebration "green" this year? Here are some ways to enjoy this holiday season while helping cut global warming pollution at the same time:

- Do your online and catalog shopping early. Shopping early lets you request ground shipping. Ground is more efficient than overnight, uses less fuel, and helps reduce the pollution that causes global warming.
- Buy a live, potted tree. After the holidays you can plant it outside or donate it to a local school or park. Or buy a small potted tree that you can keep in its pot and use again next year.
- Use energy-efficient LED lights. Holiday lights use a lot of energy, especially when left on 24/7. So, when you're ready to decorate, start by replacing your old lights with LED bulbs. Then use the lights only when you are going to enjoy them — in the evening.
- Try solar LEDs — they use no electricity at all.
- Look for the Energy Star label when buying electronics or appliances as gifts. They're more energy efficient than conventional models. Also look for an Energy Guide yellow sticker to check the energy use rating. The higher the number, the more energy efficient.
- Use less paper and recycle. Send e-cards to friends, reuse last year's wrapping paper, and save this year's unused paper.

— Parish Green Committee

## AUTO DONATION PROGRAM

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. Please remember to mention St. Thomas Aquinas Conference so we get the credit. Maybe we will win the contest-\$500.00!

## YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY

Sat. Dec. 5th, 7 PM at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center: Hosted by the young adults of Stanford and St. Thomas Aquinas. Join Young Adults of Deanery 2 in a Christmas celebration!

We'll have hot chocolate, cider, and some tasty snacks. We ask those attending to bring a drink, snack, or dessert to share, or bring \$5 to help cover costs. We also ask everyone to bring an unwrapped gift for a teenager for a toy drive held by Stanford's permanent community. So, get dressed up for the holidays and celebrate the season with the Young Adults of Deanery 2!

Afterward, around 10 PM, we'll go to Stanford's Memorial Church, to take part in Stanford's Early Holiday Liturgy at 11 PM. Contact Scott, [scott.a.harrison@gmail.com](mailto:scott.a.harrison@gmail.com) for more information, or see our website at [www.YoungAdultCircle.org](http://www.YoungAdultCircle.org).

## AGE OF AQUINAS

Sat. Dec. 12, 2009, and every Saturday at 9 am: Shoreline Park Hike & Coffee - Mt View: Meet at Lakeside Café in Mountain View's Shoreline Park near the breezeway between the café and the Aquatic Center at 9 am. We always hike, rain or shine! Randy, [age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org), or call 408.739.2881.

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# December 6, 2009

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## STAYOUTH



Hello! Welcome to the December Youth Ministry bulletin update. Youth Ministry programs at St. Thomas Aquinas are going well. A lot going on!!!

The next Confirmation session will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 6:00 until 8:30 pm. The session will focus on the meaning of the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

The season of giving is upon us all, and no one knows this better than our middle school youth who have been studying Social Justice for the past 3 months. We are now wrapping up this theme with several opportunities to participate in service and giving to others. On Dec 6, all MS youth are encouraged to meet at OLR at 11:30am to help sort the food that was generously donated by the parishioners. Later that evening, the youth will participate in making ornaments for the homebound parishioners. On Dec 19, all MS youth and their families are encouraged to help box Christmas food in East Palo Alto at St. Francis church. Of course, hard work need to be rewarded. MS youth: don't miss out on our Pink Candle Party and STAY Store night on Dec 13, our last session before the holiday. Merry Christmas!

On December 6, high school students will be watching the movie, Simon Birch. It is a great movie- don't miss it! On December 13, the high school students will be exploring the tests and images of Christmas Scriptures.

The STAY COOL program has several opportunities for students to get involved:

Saturday 12/19 9:00 am: Package Christmas dinners at St. Francis Church, 1425 Bay Rd., East Palo Alto. A parish favorite! All are welcome.

Sunday 12/20 11:30 am: Help decorate Our Lady of the Rosary for the Christmas holiday.

Sunday 12/20-12/23: Package gifts from the Giving Tree. You get to play "Santa" by choosing and packaging gifts for needy families in East Palo Alto. St. Francis Church, 1425 Bay Rd., East Palo Alto. Time TBD.

*Chris Miller, Director of Youth Ministry  
and Kristy Rozynyoi, coordinator, middle school program*

## NATIVITY CRÈCHE



Please bring your friends and join your fellow parishioners this weekend for the crèche exhibit taking place at the St. Elizabeth Seton School gymnasium (next to St. Albert the Great). Visit the beautiful display Saturday, Dec. 5 from 6-7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. until noon. We hope to see you there!