

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

TODAY'S MESSAGE

THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Christmas is less than a month behind us, but today we are encountering readings that already have a Lenten feel about them. Nineveh undergoes a forty-day fast, the psalmist reminds us that God alone can show sinners the way, Paul shows us how fleeting the things and events of this world are, and Jesus calls out "Repent!" before he calls his new followers. Even though it is easy to misunderstand these Sundays called "Ordinary Time" as being commonplace, they are anything but that. "Come after me," Jesus says, but if we truly live out the commands and demands of our discipleship through baptism, we will first know our need for conversion, our repentance, our need to believe in the gospel fully in order to live out whatever vocation Christ has called us to. Today's Gospel opens with the stark reminder of what befell John the Baptist for completely living out his vocation as the herald of Christ and the gospel: he was arrested and imprisoned. Though few of us will experience consequences that extreme, we must all be ready to risk some sort of rejection as, heeding the call of Jesus, we live out the kingdom of God at hand, repent of our sins, and believe in the good news of salvation.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 25:
 10:30 am OLR... Brian Franklin †
 10:30 am STA... Wilton Moss & Stella Moss †
Readings: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Monday, January 26: St. Timothy and St. Titus
 7:15 am
 8:30 am Matias & Josefa Perez †
 12:15 pm Gerolomo Cesano †
Readings: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 27: St. Angela Merici
 7:15 am Andrew Kott †
 8:30 am Special Intention for Montana
 12:15 pm Anjelo Baracchi †
Readings: Heb 10:1-10; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 28: St. Thomas Aquinas
 7:15 am
 8:30 am Vince Giovannotto †
 12:15 pm Aurelia Baracchi †
Readings: Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday, January 29:
 7:15 am
 8:30 am Special Intention for Anjali & Asha
 12:15 pm Charles Baracchi †
Readings: Heb 10:19-25; Mk 4:21-25

Friday, January 30:
 7:15 am Marguerite Purcell (birthday)
 8:30 am Clemencia Baclagon (health)
 12:15 pm
Readings: Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday, January 31: St. John Bosco
 12:15 pm Kapio'lani Reyes (birthday)
 5:00 pm SAG Anne Jewell †
Readings: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Mk 4:35-41

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Sat. & Sun. January 31 & February 1, 2009

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

St. Thomas Aquinas
 Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester
 Sun 8:45 am Msgr. Boyle
 Sun 10:30 am Fr. Aranha
 Sun 12 noon TBA

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

2009 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



"Growing in Faith Together" is the theme of the 2009 Annual Diocesan Appeal, which begins this January. Please prayerfully consider pledging your support to your parish and our local Church by contributing to the ADA.

Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Nancy Condon, Nicholas Humy, Chet Maksim, Devin Wakefield, Cypress Winters, Sophie Bandur, Fr. Charlie Macedo, Carole Stuart, Mary Harvey, Michael Fong, Brian Dooney, Rita McAlester, Frances Kral, Sherry Kruep, Carson Englarhardt

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Mary McNulty, Leona McGann, Mary Gaffney, Elayne Bollier Doyle, Beatrice Espicha, Sarah Ann Washburn, Mary Hansen, Mary Imbornone, Donald Ewart, Susa Langdon, Marian Partelow, Jerry Chu, Rita Kramer, Brian Franklin, Alan McPherson

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@palalto catholic.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DUE
 Feb 8 **Thu** Jan 29 noon
 Feb 15 **Thu** Feb 5 noon

Our Weekly Offering

January 4 \$ 10,187.65
 Ethnic Minorities \$ 2,649.00
 January 11 \$ 10,243.75

Year To Date

Actual YTD... \$ 280,372.81
 Budget YTD .. \$ 277,843.03
 Variance + 0.91%

January 25, 2009

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 25: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week

Monday, January 26: Chinese New Year 4707
7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)
7:30 pm RCIA (PC)

Tuesday, January 27:

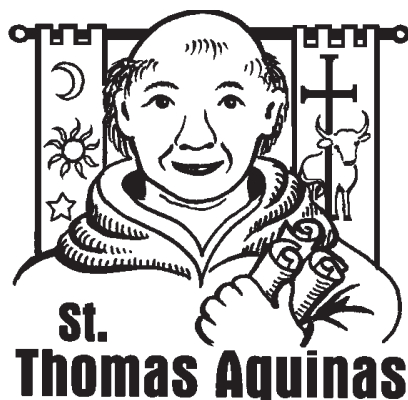
Wednesday, January 28:

Thursday, January 29:
7:00 pm First Communion (PC)
7:00 pm Confirmation Parents (OLRH)

Friday, January 30:
7:00 pm Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, January 31:
9:30 am Retreat for RCIA Sponsors (SAGH)
7:00 pm Age of Aquinas Dance (SAGH)

*Second Collection this weekend:
..... St. Elizabeth Seton School*



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

To show our love and appreciation for our many volunteers, the staff of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Party in February. Mark your calendars, and plan to attend this gala event on February 7th at 6:00pm in the St. Elizabeth Seton Auditorium. Please RSVP at the Pastoral Center.

UPCOMING PARISH & DIOCESE EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 – SHORELINE PARK HIKE AND COFFEE Meet at Lakeside Café in Mountain View's Shoreline Park near the breezeway between the café and the Aquatic Center at 9 am. This is a hike on mostly level, mostly paved paths. Afterwards gather at the café around 10:00 for coffee or brunch. We always hike, rain or shine! Randy, age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, or 408.739.2881.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 – AGE OF AQUINAS 5TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE Come join the festivities celebrating Age of Aquinas's FIFTH year to the tunes of The Sharp Nines! Still only \$10.00 at the St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, 1095 Channing Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301 Email: Mabel m-ngo@sbcglobal.net, or call Tom: 408.298.2064

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – WIDOW AND WIDOWERS FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING Cocktails at 5:00 p.m., Dinner at 5:30. The Crown Plaza Cabana Hotel, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Between Charleston and San Antonio Road. Parking in Front and Rear of Hotel. Confirm with Joan Meyn at 494-3467 before Feb 2.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS NOT FAR AWAY! Circle the calendar: Saturday, March 14! Share in one of the legacies of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish - the annual St. Patrick's Day event. Plan for an evening of live Irish music, dance, food, hospitality, and fun. A "par-fect" evening for young families, seniors, and parishioners -- priced to encourage participation. Be part of the traditionally sell-out crowd at St. Elizabeth Seton School auditorium. Details to follow in subsequent weeks. Volunteers always welcome! Contact Joe Kinsella 364-3705.

RITE OF DISMISSAL

The Rite of Dismissal During this Period of the Catechumenate, for Breaking Open of the Word – Since our 5 parish adult candidates for Baptism now have all celebrated The Rite of Acceptance, they move from the Period of Inquiry to the Period of the Catechumenate.

During Mass we celebrate the dismissal rite with these catechumens after the proclamation of the scripture and homily and before the intercessory prayers of the faithful. The ritual goes back to the early years of the Catholic church. Since the catchumens do not yet share in the priestly ministry of baptism, they do not participate in the priestly functions of the assembly: intercessions and prayers of thanksgiving.

The presider invites the catchumens forward along with their catechist (discussion leader). They come up front (without sponsors) to the designated place and face the assembly.

The presider "urges them to live according to the Word of God they have just heard." The catechist receives The Lectionary, and holds it up as appropriate in any liturgical procession, and leads the group out as music is played or an acclamation is sung by the assembly.

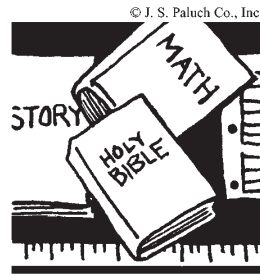
At this time the dismissals are at the 9:00am Mass at St. Albert the Great on Sundays.

Jean Ramacciotti, Director of the Catechumenate (RCIA), 650 494-2496 ext. 34, pajeanr@yahoo.com

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

ST. ELIZABETH SETON SCHOOL

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – JAN 25 – 31, 2009:
SCHOOL MASS AND OPEN HOUSE You are invited to St. Elizabeth Seton School's School Mass on Monday, January 26th, 2009. Mass will be at 9:15a.m. at St. Albert's. We will have an Open House on Tuesday January 27th., parents are welcome to visit the classrooms from 8:00a.m. to 10:30a.m. Some of the activities during Catholic Schools Week include: Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day, Religious Appreciation Day, Cultural Appreciation Day, Community Day, Parent Appreciation Day and Student Appreciation Day. Color and Movie Day and special treats. Science Fair on Thursday January 29th, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00p.m.



Catholic Schools Week

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

St. Elizabeth Seton School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and does not discriminate on the basis of race color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs and other school-administered programs.

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORTURE

With the inauguration of a new president NCRAT is actively campaigning to urge him to take early action to ban torture as a weapon in our war against terrorism. Our parish joined the national effort last August with letters and the display of banners "Torture is wrong." There is reason to be hopeful. President Obama, when he introduced his selections for national intelligence director and director of the CIA said, "We must adhere to our values as diligently as we protect our safety, with no exceptions. I was clear throughout this campaign that under my administration the United States does not torture We will abide by the Geneva Conventions. We will uphold our highest ideals." Like-minded parishioners may wish to send a message to our new president to applaud his decision.

Human Concerns Committee, submitted by Walt Lundin

WORLD FAMOUS PASSION PLAY

Join Father George, and a bus full of happy Catholics, for the experience of a lifetime: The opportunity to see the famous passion play in Oberammergau, Germany, depicting the last week and passion of our Lord. Every 10 years this tiny hamlet performs the play in keeping with their 377 year old promise to God. It is literally performed with a cast of hundreds. People will be coming from all over the world to see it. We will also visit the "Best of Poland and Prague". The trip is 11 days: Sept. 8th – 18th, 2010.

You may say, "Wow, 2010 is a long time from now." The demand for tickets will FAR exceed the supply plus we will limit our group to just one bus. Don't delay; Act now! Brochures are available at the Pastoral Center or if that is difficult for you, email me and I will get one to you- ndwade@pacbell.net. Deposits are already being accepted. You don't want to miss this!

TAKE ACTION ON DARFUR

USCCB [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops] is collaborating with the Save Darfur Campaign to urge President Barack Obama give priority to ending the violence in Darfur. As you may know about 300,000 people have died, 2 million are displaced from their homes, and hundreds of thousands go hungry every day. As Catholics we must work to protect human life and promote human dignity whenever they are threatened. Catholics around the U.S. can urge the President to end the tragedy in Darfur by completing electronic messages. The electronic message is available on JPHD's Take Action page at www.usccb.org/takeaction. Please share this important opportunity with other advocates. Thank you for your concern for the people of Darfur!

PRIESTS VS. SEMINARIANS

3rd Annual Priests vs. Seminarians Basketball Challenge: Back by popular demand, our annual Priests-Seminarians Basketball Game will be held on February 6 at 7:00 p.m. Because of the growing number of people attending this event, the upcoming game will be at Leavey Center on the campus of Santa Clara University. Tickets can be purchased on-line at <http://www.dsj.org/bballtix>. Price: \$10 per adults and \$5 for students. The Bishop has described this as "one of the most fun things he gets to do as bishop." You'll see your priests and future priests in a whole new light. And, yes, they play better than you think! Get your tickets early. All proceeds go to support our 22 seminarians. For more information, please contact the Vocations Office at (408) 983-0155 or vocations@dsj.org. God bless you and please pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life!