

First Sunday of Lent

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

My dear Parish Family,

A couple of weekends ago, around the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of Prayer for the Sick (February 11th), during the Sunday Masses we talked about the ministry of taking Communion to the Sick, especially to our family members and friends and sometimes even to our neighbors and fellow parishioners. Communion to nursing homes and large groups is handled by our wonderful Pastoral Home Ministers.

I have created a Prayer Service Card that includes a prayer for the minister taking communion, as well as the liturgy of communion to the sick and homebound. This card comes in a bag with a pyx, that can take up to 7 hosts.

If you are planning to take communion to the sick and homebound, you may borrow one of these packets from any of our three sacristies.

Fr. George



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 1:

9:00 am SAG Andi Contegni †
 10:30 am OLR Brian Franklin †
*Readings: Gen 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22;
 Mk 1:12-15*

Monday, March 2:

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, March 3: St. Katharine Drexel

8:30 am James & Edith Dubbs
Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, March 4: St. Casimir

12:15 pm Maria Zych (special
 intention)
Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, March 5:

7:15 am Rita Kramer †
Readings: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday, March 6:

Readings: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, March 7: St. Perpetua and
 St. Felicity; First Saturday

5:00 pm SAG Tony Schembri †
Readings: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Second Collection this weekend:

..... *Aid to Churches in E. Europe*

2009 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



By following Christ faithfully in our lives, we "Grow in Faith Together." We have each been blessed with many gifts and are called to reach out in faith to share those blessings with one another. Please be as generous as you can in contributing to the 2009 ADA. To date, 185 families have made pledges and gifts of over \$72,597. We are 62.4% of the way to reaching our goal of \$116,250. Consider making your pledge today - see our ADA Tables after Mass for more information.

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday March 7 & 9, 2009

St. Albert the Great

Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Aranha
 Sun 9:00 am Fr. Marini

St. Thomas Aquinas

Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester
 Sun 8:45 am Fr. Aranha
 Sun 10:30 am Fr. Aranha
 Sun 12 noon Fr. Nahoe

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 9:00 am (español) . . Fr. Gutiérrez
 Sun 10:30 am Fr. Gutiérrez



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, Sherry Kruep, Carson Enghardt, John Martin, Joseph Seebach

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Beatrice Espicha, Sarah Ann Washburn, Mary Hansen, Mary Imbornone, Donald Ewart, Susa Langdon, Marian Partelow, Jerry Chu, Rita Kramer, Brian Franklin, Alan McPherson, Lena DeFrenza, Fr. Charles Dougherty, Fr. Barry Freyne, Frances Kral, Kirk Martin

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
 Mar 15 **Thu** Mar 5 noon
 Mar 22 **Thu** Mar 12 noon



Our Weekly Offering

February 15 \$ 8,309.42
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD . . . \$ 392,996.05
 Budget YTD . . \$ 416,226.43
 Variance - 5.58%

March 1, 2009

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 1: First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election; Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending
9:15 am Rel. Ed. Sac. Prep. (OLR)
10:15 am Rel. Ed. Sac. Prep. (SAG)

Monday, March 2: Orthodox Lent begins
12:00 pm Teachers Meeting (OLRH)
7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)
7:30 pm RCIA (PC)

Tuesday, March 3:
7:00 pm Centering Prayer (PC)
7:00 pm Confirmation Mtg (OLRH)

Wednesday, March 4:
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:00 pm Comm Life (PC)
7:30 pm Transitions (PC)

Thursday, March 5:
7:00 pm First Communion (PC)
7:00 pm Youth Group (DC)

Friday, March 6: First Friday; World Day of Prayer; Abstinence
7:00 pm Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, March 7:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers Needed In The Spiritual Care Program, Stanford University Hospital: The Spiritual Care Service at Stanford Hospital is seeking Catholic volunteers to visit, pray and offer the Eucharist to patients and families. Volunteers must be willing to commit two hours a week for a year.

A Training Program will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto on Monday evenings: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, please respond by calling the Spiritual Care Service office at 650-723-5101 or email ghollingsworth@stanfordmed.org and listing your name and phone number. Interviews begin in February.

UPCOMING PARISH & DIOCESE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4TH – SOUP Come one come all on the Wednesdays of Lent to OLR Hall, 6pm. Put the following dates on your calendar now: March 4, 11, 18 & 25. Bring your own bowl and spoon along with perhaps some cheese and crackers. Donate what dinner at home or out would have cost. All proceeds will go to help Father Jack Donald who works with the very most needy people in Honduras.

THURSDAY MARCH 5TH – WIDOW AND WIDOWER DINNER The parish Widow/Widower group will dine at the elegant Sundance Steakhouse restaurant on Thursday March 5. Full dinner selections include slow-roasted Prime Rib, Chicken and seafood, plus dessert. \$25 includes tax and tip. Bring your own wine, the corkage is only \$10. Cocktails 5:00 p.m., dinner promptly at 5:30. Bring exact amount in cash. 1921 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Reserve with Bob Supp before Wednesday March 4. phone (650) 967-4084

EVERYBODY'S IRISH ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY! The annual St. Patrick's Day celebration is a rainbow's arc away – Saturday, March 14, 6:00 - 8:00 at St. Elizabeth Seton Auditorium. Tickets are on sale this weekend and next after all Masses at inflation-resistant prices: \$15.00 - adults; \$5.00 - children under 12. Enjoy a parish tradition of hospitality, Celtic music and dance, and the best Irish corned beef dinner on the Peninsula! Satisfy your parents and introduce your children to an evening devoted to families, friends, and being together. Don't wait too long to buy your access to this sell-out event. Contact the Pastoral Center for tickets during the week. Call Joe Kinsella if you would like to volunteer to contribute to the program's success! 364-3705.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

THE RITE OF SENDING Today our five adult catechumens celebrate The Rite of Sending at St. Albert's at 9:00am. Fr. George and those assembled hear testimonies from their sponsors of their preparedness for the Initiation sacraments. The five sign the parish Book of the Elect. Then Fr. George, on behalf of the Church and our community and in the name of Christ, accepts the testimonies. He joyfully sends the catechumens, with their sponsors and catechists to the Cathedral for The Rite of Election celebrated that afternoon.

RITE OF ELECTION (or ENROLLMENT OF NAMES) This liturgical rite formally ratifies the catechumen's readiness for the sacraments of Initiation. Along with hundreds of other adult catechumens in the Diocese, they gather for the Celebration of Election in Christ with Bishop McGrath. From the altar he addresses them, questioning their willingness. As a group they answer "yes" or "si". Our parish RCIA catechist calls out their names individually as they process in front of the Bishop, another parish catechist shows him the Book of Elect the five signed earlier at St. Albert's. As they bow to the Bishop, he bows back and acknowledges their signatures in The Book. Now that they are enrolled among the elect five are called "The Elect." They can also be called *illuminandi* – ("those who will be enlightened") because baptism itself has been called *illuminatio* (enlightenment) as it fills the newly baptized with the light of faith.

THE PENITENTIAL RITE for the Already-Baptized next Sunday. March 8 at the 10:30am Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary our 13 Candidates will celebrate a penitential rite. Those faithful assembled join in this ritual, some coming forward to pray over the candidates. These Candidates are already-baptized Christians. Four of them are from other traditions, seeking Reception into the Roman Catholic Church. Nine of them are Catholics completing their initiation sacraments by celebrating Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Gospel Summary: First Sunday of Lent - Year B / Mark 1:12-15: Jesus trusted in God's promises. According to Mark's gospel, immediately after His baptism, Jesus was driven into the wilderness where He lived with the wild beasts for forty days and was tempted by Satan. Through those desolate days, Jesus was faithful to God. And at the end of the forty days, the angels came to minister to Jesus.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family: This year as you begin Lent, talk as a family about why the Holy Spirit took Jesus into the wilderness and why He stayed there forty days. It is likely you will name things such as prayer, quiet time for reflection, doing God's will, and more. As you consider what individual members or the whole family may do in the way of Lenten practices this year, use Jesus as a model. Keep in mind that the hardships of others may be much greater than your own. Like the angels who came to Jesus' side at the end of the forty days, perhaps your family can attend to the needs of someone else.

Adult Faith Sharing: Come and join myself at OLR or Hal Fletcher at SAG for a stimulating discussion of faith on the first Sunday of every month. While the children are attending their Rel. Ed. classes (OLR 9:15 – 10:15 & SAG 10:15 – 11:15), adults gather to share their faith experiences and deepen their own spirituality. This Sunday we'll be exploring: 'Where is the joy', or 'where is the love in my life?' Perhaps, as parents/guardians, you have wondered why, or felt weary from giving your best, but without seeing the results you were hoping for. If so, let us together "put out into the deep" for a great catch with Christ! All adults and young adults welcome. Remember, Sac. Prep. Parents, these classes are required if you have a child receiving sacraments through the Rel. Ed. process!

Mark Your Calendars:

March 1st Reg. Classes ~ All Parent Mtg. Including Sac. Prep. Mtg.

March 8th Reg. Classes ~ F.I.G. ~ Fun In The Gospel (not optional)

March 15th Reg. Classes

March 22nd & 29th No Classes ~ Spring Break

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.

STAYOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

YOUTH [middle school (6–8), high school (9–12), confirmation (8–high school)]

St. Thomas Aquinas Youth (STAY) www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/

High School – 7-8:30pm at Dermody Center. Diane, Mary and Jonathon from the Stanford Catholic Community will be joining us again. Hope to see you there!

Middle School – 7-8:30pm, OLR Hall – please bring your Youth Bible!

Sunday, March 8th, 7pm Youth Mass at OLR. All are welcome! Shot, yet yummy, dessert social afterwards.

Music rehearsals after the 10:30am OLR Mass on March 1st and at 6:15pm on Sunday, March 8th

AGE OF AQUINAS

WED, MARCH 4 – ASTRONOMY

LECTURE AND DINNER Sponsored by Foothill College Astronomy Program, NASA-Ames, SETI, and Astronomy Society of the Pacific Meet at 5:45 for a light dinner at Pasta Market, San Antonio Rd & El Camino Real, in Los Altos. Then carpool at 6:30 to Foothill College. The Lecture begins at 7 and is usually packed. This time University of Ca. astronomer Steven Beckwith, the former Director of the Space Telescope Science Institute (which runs the Hubble), will give a non-technical, illustrated talk on "The Dawn of Creation: The First Two Billion Years" (www.foothill.edu/ast/news.htm#Anchor5). Visitors must purchase a campus parking permit for \$2. Parking lots 1, 3, 5 and 6 provide access to the theater. The college is located on El Monte Rd at I-280. Time: Dinner 5:45 pm, carpool 6:30 pm, lecture 7:00 pm. Cost: Whatever you spend for dinner, plus your share of the \$2 parking fee. The Lecture is FREE! Location: Dinner/ Carpool: The Pasta Market, 4546 El Camino Real, Suite A7, Los Altos, CA 94022 Location: Lecture: Foothill Coll, Smithwick Theater, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 More info: Carrie Karnos, ckarnos@yahoo.com, call Randy on 408.739.2881, or visit www.paloaltocatholic.org/AofA.html.

FAIR TRADE GIFT SALE

Yes, it is back by popular demand! The Human Concerns Committee will be sponsoring a gift sale of "fair trade" chocolate, coffee and other gift items with an Easter theme. The dates are tentatively set to be the weekends of March 21/22 and 28/29. Tables will be set up at all 3 church sites for all Mass times. Everything will be sold at cost, because we are trying to raise awareness, rather than funds. Please stay tuned for more info to come.