

Fourth Sunday of Lent

OBERAMMERGAU "ANSWERED PRAYERS; A CONTINUING VOW"

You are invited to attend a very special Burning Bush session with Deacon Carl Bunje. He will present the history of the world famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany from a very personal perspective. He has many behind the scenes experiences to relate, plus the powerful experience of the play itself. Other Lenten reflections will also be presented. As always, there will be wonderful company, wine, cheese and additional treats. If you have already been to the play, please come and share your memories and photos, if any, with us. See you at the St. Albert Hospitality Center on Sunday afternoon, March 22 from 3pm until 5pm.

ST. ELIZABETH SETON SCHOOL

Science classes have begun in Seton School's new Science Center, and all the students are full of enthusiasm. It has a great interior, modeled along the lines of other private schools' labs nearby, and 5th through 8th graders have been wide eyed as they experience this novel setting. Their peers in the community have, until this point, had a head start, but now our students are all set to build a sturdy foundation in hands-on science education before they enter high school.



2009 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL



March 21/22: Our parish needs your help! To date, 257 families have made pledges and gifts of over \$89,414. We are 76.7% of the way to reaching our goal of \$116,250. Please make your pledge today to support our Diocese. Pledge envelopes and brochures can be found in the vestibule area of the church. A follow-up Phone-A-Thon will begin this week in order to reach all those parishioners who have yet to pledge. Thank you, in advance, for your prayerful consideration.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, March 22:

10:30 am OLR... Brian Franklin †

Readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Monday, March 23: St. Toribio de Mogrovejo

Readings: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 24:

Readings: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 25:

8:30 am Jack McGannon †

12:15 pm Beverly Webb (special intention)

Readings: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday, March 26:

12:15 pm Anne Jewell †

Readings: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday, March 27:

Readings: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 28:

5:00 pm Bertha Gretz †

Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

Second Collection this weekend:

..... Catholic Relief Services

Second Collection next weekend:

..... St. Vincent de Paul

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday March 28 & 29, 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 Fr. Rubio

Sun 10:30 am Fr. Mikalonis

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 Englarth, John Martin, Joseph Seebach, Bill Belcher, Tony Artero



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, Elaine Doyle

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
Apr 5 **Thu** Mar 26 noon
Apr 12 **Thu** Apr 2 noon



Our Weekly Offering

March 8 \$ 9,570.33
Ash Wednesday \$ 3,598.00
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD .. \$ 424,651.63
Budget YTD .. \$ 447,445.87
Variance - 5.09%

March 22, 2009

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 22: Fourth Sunday of Lent;
Second Scrutiny
3:00 pm Burning Bush (SAGH)

Monday, March 23:
7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)

Tuesday, March 24:

Wednesday, March 25: The Annunciation of
the Lord
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:30 pm Site Committee (STAH)

Thursday, March 26:
7:00 pm First Communion (PC)

Friday, March 27: Abstinence
7:00 pm Young Adult (OLRH)

Saturday, March 28:
all day First Aid Class PANDA
(OLRH)

EASTER GIFT SALE—TODAY!

Please come by the Easter Gifts table set up by the Human Concerns Committee today at all Church sites after all Masses. There are chocolates from Ghana, coffee from Columbia, organic tea from India, handicrafts from Vietnam, as well as cocoa mix from the Dominican Republic. All items are certified "Fair Trade" and are produced by farmers and artisans being offered fair wages and access to healthcare and education.



UPCOMING PARISH & DIOCESE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 – TRANSITIONS SUPPORT GROUP 7:30 pm at the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Center, 3290 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto. Transitions is a drop-in support group for those who are undergoing the transition from couplehood to single-hood. If you or someone you know has suffered the breakup of a marriage or significant relationship, this group may be helpful. The meetings are informal and unstructured, confidential and safe. Occasionally we will have a special guest speaker on a topic of interest. We have a small lending library of helpful books you may borrow, keep, or pass on to others.. Cost: There is no charge. More info: www.paloaltocatholic.org/AofA.html or contact Randy Jones, 408-739-2881, transitions@paloaltocatholic.org

EVERY SATURDAY – AGE OF AQUINAS HIKE & 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! Email: randy.age-of-aquinas@paloaltocatholic.org, or call 408.739.2881.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

SECOND RITE OF SCRUTINY FOR OUR SIX ELECT

Today at the 9:00am Mass at St. Albert the Great, the six that are being baptized at the Easter Vigil celebrate a Rite of Scrutiny. This is the SECOND of three rites which always occur on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. Cycle A readings are used at this Mass only for these 3 Sundays. The theme of this week's penitential rite is "The Light of the World," based on the gospel of the man born blind. The whole assembly participates in the scrutiny, praying with and for the Elect and themselves too, examining their own lives and addressing what they need for their own spiritual journeys.

PRAY FOR A CANDIDATE

Please take a name from the poster of our many candidates for Initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil, and keep that person in your prayers from now until Pentecost.

THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

In the RCIA process, Lent is called The Period of Purification and Enlightenment. Intense spiritual preparation becomes the focus during these weekly gatherings as the candidates move Initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil. The meetings consist more of interior reflection than in instruction and teaching – a retreat mode. Members of the Core RCIA Team prepare the candidates for a soul-filled prayerful way of life, and a life of sacrifice. The goal is to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of those who are on the next step of their journey towards Christ. All that is upright, strong, and good in each of them is affirmed and strengthened. This, of course, with the help of The Holy Spirit and the prayers and support of all of you – our parish community.

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

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GOSPEL SUMMARY : John 9:1-41 Using saliva and earth, Jesus made a paste to heal the blind man. The healing became a true conversion for the man, but created some problems for Jesus with the Jewish leaders. Because this healing took place on the Sabbath, the Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking Jewish law. The Pharisees tried to get confirmation of this action from the blind man's parents and from the blind man himself. In the end, the authorities were unable to charge Jesus with any wrongdoing and had to recognize that Jesus was gaining many disciples.

REFLECTION FOR FAMILIES : In order for parents to help their children follow the light of Christ, they too must open their eyes. As Jesus helped the blind man understand, it is not enough to see only with our eyes. We need also to see with our hearts and allow our every action to reflect this sight. Jesus healed the man of his blindness, but in the end the man recognized Jesus as the Messiah and worshiped him.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL INTO YOUR FAMILY : Make an effort today (or sometime this week) to really see God in our lives. This may take some time and deliberation, but take a walk together and look for signs of God in the beauty of nature. Talk about ways God has helped you see with your heart, and suggest ways you can share the sight of your heart with others. You might bring some of your findings to your family's prayer space.

Mark Your Calendars:

Mar. 22nd & 29th No Classes ~ Spring Break

April 5th Reg. Classes ~ All Parent Mtg. Including Sac. Prep Parents

April 12th No Classes ~ Easter! Alleluia!

April 19th Reg. Classes at OLR Site; First Communion at SAG Site

April 26th Reg. Classes at SAG Site; First Communion at OLR Site

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/

YOUNG ADULTS [college-age, 20s, 30s] www.paloaltocatholic.org/STAY/

Sunday, March 22nd – No STAY Sessions due to PAUSD Spring Break.

Deanery 2 Young Adults [www.YoungAdultCircle.org]

March Young Adult Mass Tues, 3/31, 7:30PM Intersection Chapel, St. Nicholas School
The Deanery 2 YA group celebrates its third anniversary this month. Celebrate the Easter season with young adults (20's and 30's, single or married) from this and neighboring parishes. The Mass is held at the St. Nicholas Youth Center (aka the Intersection) at 12816 S. El Monte Rd., Los Altos Hills, (West of Foothill Expwy, just before I-280) And to help out those in need this Lenten season, we ask attendees of this Mass to donate new socks, toiletry items (like toothbrushes, combs, soap) or gift cards (Target, Safeway, Longs) which will be distributed to the less fortunate in East Palo Alto. Those interested in participating in our choir at our Masses, please arrive at 6:30PM at the Intersection; We are in need of musicians especially. Contact Larry, hudat@stanfordalumni.org for more info. A map to the Intersection is posted on our website, <http://www.YoungAdultCircle.org>

LORD'S PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

The reflections which follow these words of the Our Father were written by Fr. Rolheiser. (He writes a column for the Valley Catholic.) During the weeks of Lent we will present it in segments and then, as Lent winds down, the complete prayer in a bulletin insert.

Mary, Mirror of Justice, pray for us!

On earth as in heaven . . . may the work of our hands, the temples and structures we build in this world, reflect the temple and the structure of your glory so that the joy, graciousness, tenderness, and justice of heaven will show forth within all of our structures on earth.

Give . . . life and love to us and help us to see always everything as gift. Help us to know that nothing comes to us by right and that we must give because we have been given to. Help us realize that we must give to the poor, not because they need it, but because our own health depends upon our giving to them.

Us . . . the truly plural us. Give not just to our own but to everyone, including those who are very different than the narrow us. Give your gifts to all of us equally.

This day . . . not tomorrow. Do not let us push things out into some indefinite future so that we can continue to live justified lives in the face of injustice because we can make good excuses for our inactivity.

Our daily bread . . . so that each person in the world may have enough food, enough clean water, enough clean air, adequate health care, and sufficient access to education so as to have the sustenance for a healthy life. Teach us to give from our sustenance and not just from our surplus.