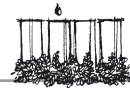


First Sunday of Advent



TODAY'S MESSAGE

ACTIVE WAITING

As this new liturgical year unfolds, today's readings are most appropriate, for they root us in what it means to live authentically as Christians. The Gospel, with its frightening predictions of the end times, invites the hearer to "be vigilant at all times" (Luke 21:36). This kind of vigilance is not at all passive for the Christian. Instead, it is a kind of active waiting. And what should we be doing while we are waiting for the coming of the Lord? The second reading gives us the answer: "abound in love for one another and for all" (1 Thessalonians 3:12). Today is all about promises made and fulfilled. May this Advent season root us all firmly in a stance of active waiting for the Lord, who brings justice and peace.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 29:

Readings: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday, November 30: St. Andrew

12:15 am STA ... Audrey Custidio
(birthday)

Readings: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday, December 1:

Readings: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 2:

12:15 am STA ... James & Edith Dubbs
Readings: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 3: St. Francis Xavier

8:30 am OLR ... Frank Abel †
Readings: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 4: St. John of Damascus

Readings: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, December 5:

12:15 am STA ... Carlee Donnell †
Readings: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

To find a Mass while you're traveling, call 1-800-Mass-Times (1-800-627-7846) or www.Masstimes.org

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAYS ASSEMBLY

"Fun-Laughter-Insight"

Tuesday Night Spirituality: Families! and all parishioners! Come join us on Tues., Dec. 1st for a night of fun, laughter and insight. Toddlers-children-youth-young adults please

join us adults as we explore "passing on our Faith to our families" We'll be gathering early that night for pizza! St. Albert the Great site, 12/01 6pm -8:30pm. (Babysitting will be available.)

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!

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday December 5 & 6, 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. Aranha
Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary

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



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, Smithy Smith, Milo Gwosden, Bobby Kerrigan, Elizabeth Hofstetter, Evaldo Nasciuto, Fausto Araujo, Joan Copenhagen, Ann Bisacca, Karen LeMoine, Sally Sullivan, Harry Browne, Damian Dykema

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Jim Chinn, Robert Jordan, Nancy Condon, Anthony Thalmann, Sophie Bandur, Rena del Rosario, Geraldine Thalmann, Isabel Mulcahy, Alija Jayne Schemel, Harriett Biggs, Fr. Charles Macedo, Vivencio Ilao, Betty Streep, Raoul Geurickx, 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

Please note our email address:
bulletin@paloaltocatholic.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DUE
Dec 13 **Thu** Dec 3 noon
Dec 20 **Thu** Dec 10 noon



Our Weekly Offering

November 15 \$ 10,580.62
St. Elizabeth Seton School \$ 3,124.00
thank you for your continued generosity

Year To Date

Actual YTD .. \$ 189,189.39
Budget YTD .. \$ 195,665.47
Variance - 3.31%

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, November 29: First Sunday of Advent

Monday, November 30:
7:30 pm Medjugorje Group (KC)

Tuesday, December 1: World AIDS Day
7:00 pm Hispanic Prayer (OLR)
7:00 pm Spirituality Tuesdays (SAGH)

Wednesday, December 2:
5:45 pm 1st Reconciliation (OLR)
6:00 pm SOUP (OLRH)
7:30 pm RCIA (PC)
7:30 pm Transitions (PC)

Thursday, December 3:
7:00 pm Catechist (DC)
7:00 pm Cmm. Board (PC)

Friday, December 4: First Friday
7:00 pm YAG (OLRH)

Saturday, December 5: First Saturday
8:30 am Liturgy Board (SAGH)
6:30 pm Young Adult Circle (SAGH)

PASTORAL HOME MINISTRY

Pastoral Home Ministry Christmas Party will be on Saturday, Dec 5th, from 2-4pm at the home of Nickie and Don Andrews, 724 Ames, Palo Alto. All ministers and their spouses/ friends are welcome. Please come and join your fellow ministers for some refreshment and good cheers. Books and poinsettias for your clients will be available. RSVP to 650-494-2496 X22.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

To all parishioners who knit and/or crochet! Share your talent to create a special prayer shawl for a fellow parishioner in need of extra warmth, love and prayers at a critical time in his or her life. Your spare time can result in a beautiful gift to someone in need. Please call Terry 650-714-2131.

THE GREEN CORNER

Thomas Friedman's column in the 11/12 Mercury: The loss of tropical forests releases a lot of CO₂ - about 17% of all global emissions. Economic necessity pushes forest dwellers to remove forests for furniture stock or clear cut for arable land. Brazil has reserved 43% of its Amazon rain forest for conservation and for its indigenous natives. Already another 19% has become lumber, sad to say, and the remainder is up for grabs. Friedman recommends that any future U.S. climate change legislation and international protocols recognize the need for conservation financing and for an economic model that replaces depleting these pollution-reducing forests. [Indonesia and the Congo face the same problems.] One a little brighter note (Chronicle 11/13), Amazon deforestation dropped 45% between 8/08 and 7/09, the lowest rate of clearing since they started keeping records 21 years ago. – *Parish Green Committee*

YOUNG ADULT MASS

Young Adult Holiday Party Sat, Dec. 5th, 7 pm SAGH. Join Young Adults of Deanery 2 in a Christmas celebration. 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, www.YoungAdultCircle.org. All are welcome.

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

Save the date--December 3rd--Widow/widower Christmas Party. Starts at 5:30, at Mike's Restaurant in Menlo Park. RSVP's your dinner and salad selections by Nov. 29 to Winnie 493-6823. We will try to fit you in if you are late rsvp. After dinner, the party will be at Jeanne Ramos's house. You are welcome to bring a few cookies to share and a wrapped gift (\$20 or less) for the exchange. If you need a ride, email or call Roland 493-2128 or Jeanne 324-8788 immediately.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Frances, a fifty year old self sufficient woman was gainfully employed and living in Palo Alto. Her daughter attended the Palo Alto Schools. Living costs increased and she moved to Cupertino where houses at that time were more affordable. The last few years have been quite terrible. She had a car accident and her right leg was injured. She had surgery on the leg which did not go well and it did not heal properly. She lost her job and paying for the surgery became difficult. She needs another surgery, and has no money to pay for it. She could no longer afford her home and began living with a woman in Cupertino who allowed her to stay the night and shower in the morning in exchange for some cleaning and ironing services. She cannot drive to Cupertino now because her car is badly in need of repair, so she stays in Palo Alto. Although she has multiple needs, she came to us asking for money to repair the brakes on her car. She has managed to find a job selling books and she desperately needs a car to deliver the books to her customers.

Frances is a typical example of the people we help here in Palo Alto. There are many like her here in Palo Alto who are living "on the edge." The second collection on the fifth Sunday, today, is for St. Vincent de Paul. When the second collection basket is passed, remember Frances and please give generously.

November 29, 2009

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family: Beginning with this first Sunday of Advent, make a promise as a family to live the message of this Gospel. Clearly, we are cautioned not to get caught up with the busyness of ordinary life: the chores, the eating and drinking etc. As a family, think of ways you can slow the pace and take the focus off the 'doing' and 'getting' and concentrate on 'being' and 'giving.' You might decide to make more time for family prayer, reach out to someone who has lost hope at this Christmas season, or begin a new tradition that helps you prepare for Jesus' return.

FUN-LAUGHTER-INSIGHT -Tuesday Night
Spirituality: Come join us on Tues., Dec. 1st for a night of fun, laughter and insight. We'll be exploring the why's and how's of celebrating and sharing our faith with our children; no matter if they are toddlers or young adults with children of their own! We'll be gathering early that night for pizza! St. Albert the Great site, 12/01 6pm -8:30pm.

Mark Your Calendars:

Nov. 29th No Classes / Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1st Spirituality Night // SAG Hall – Celebrating and Sharing our Faith With Our Children Young & Old
Dec. 2nd 1st Reconciliation // OLR Site - 5:45pm
Dec. 6th Reg. Classes // Parent Gathering
Dec. 8th Immaculate Conception // Holy Day of Obligation
Dec. 9th 1st Reconciliation // SAG Site - 5:30pm
Dec. 13th Reg. Classes
Dec. 20th & 27th No Classes // Christmas Break

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

NATIVITY CRÈCHE

This year on Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6 you will have the opportunity to not only enjoy a lovely exhibit of nativity scenes, but to have yours included as well. Everyone is invited to bring their crèche from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 to the gymnasium at St. Elizabeth Seton School for set-up. They will be displayed that evening after the 5 p.m. mass and again Sunday morning from 8 a.m. until noon. It'll be a wonderful experience for all ages and we hope you'll invite your friends and neighbors, too. In order to know how many tables to set up, we ask that you please contact Monique at Llmosey131@yahoo.com or call her at 650.619.9971 if you would like to display your crèche.